



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Jun
NC0507185695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Writer Congratulates, Criticizes Mubarak
2. Columnist Urges Restraint With Sudan
3. Labor's Husayn Rules Out Sudanese Involvement in Attack
4. Labor Party Organ Discusses Attack on Mubarak
5. U.S. Said Offering Help Against Islamists but Weary of Mubarak

WRITER CONGRATULATES, CRITICIZES MUBARAK

Muhammad 'Abbas, the author of several recent articles in AL-SHA'B criticizing the conduct of the authorities and the police, writes a 3,000-word article on page 12 addressed to President Hosni Mubarak.

'Abbas congratulates Mubarak on his escape from the attempt on his life and says that although he remains in the opposition, his amicable feelings for the president are sincere and, because of this sincerity, he wishes to point out the president's shortcomings.

He describes his love for the president as "the love of a brother, a fellow believer in God, someone who believes the greatest gift he can give is to reveal his errors to him."

'Abbas suggests that the authorities have flouted the law on several issues and asks the president: "Every strong point you have had in this world will be counted against you in the hereafter. So have you made your preparations for the journey to meet your God, Mr. President?"

He assails Mubarak for "insisting on not appointing a vice president, thus risking the homeland's future if God decides to take you to him."

He urges the president: "Repeal the Emergency Law, allow the Constitution to be changed, replace the selection of the president by public referendum with a free election, halt torture, stop the rigging of elections, give real freedom to the press and the political parties, pursue the corrupt and corruption, and lay down the foundations for a new, modern Egypt."

He says he is happy Mubarak escaped assassination, because he feels that if the president had been killed the

"strategy of the new world order" would have exploited any attempt by new Egyptian forces to seize power to provoke a civil war in the country.

Regarding the Islamic groups, he declares: "The assassination of President Mubarak will never bring the extremist Islamic groups to power. They must have enough sense to understand this. Another and more serious point is that coming to power would be the worst thing the Islamic groups could do or the worst thing that could be done to them. Lacking favorable circumstances and experience, they cannot present an example of good government, but a travesty that will harm Islam."

He sympathizes with but also blames these groups: "They are wronged but also unjust. The blood of some of them has been unjustly shed but they also have shed blood unjustly."

He declares the Islamic groups are too weak to rule but too strong to be eliminated and advises the authorities to handle them by political rather than violent methods.

Hinting that foreign powers want Mubarak dead, he suggests that the real reason for wanting to assassinate Mubarak might be Mubarak's making too many political concessions on the international stage and reaching the point where he is not willing to make any more. He says: "They want another president who will begin making concessions all over again."

COLUMNIST URGES RESTRAINT WITH SUDAN

A 500-word column by Mahmud Bakri on page 12 refers to the historically close ties between the Egyptian and Sudanese people and advises against hasty Egyptian accusations against the Sudanese Government in connection with the attempt on Mubarak.

The writer says: "In these difficult circumstances we urge President Mubarak to adhere to his earlier assertion that Egypt will not fight Sudan. Such a catastrophe would incur terrible losses for both sides, and history will not forgive our silence about it. If it happens, only the Americans and Zionists will benefit. They are lying in wait for us, looking for an opportunity to pounce on us, rout our forces, and divide our ranks."

LABOR'S HUSAYN RULES OUT SUDANESE INVOLVEMENT IN ATTACK

A 4,000-word article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn on page 5 presents a long argument that the Sudanese Government could not have been involved in President Mubarak's attempted assassination. Put briefly, the argument says Sudan is under increasing pressure from opposition groups and would not want

to antagonize either Egypt or Ethiopia by planning the assassination on its territory and thus gain additional enemies. Declaring that a recent conference of Sudanese opposition groups in Asmara, Eritrea, agreed to seek the separation of the south, he warns that the "fragmentation of Sudan into warring statelets controlled by Israel" will threaten the sources of the Nile. He calls on the Egyptian Government not to "facilitate the task of the conspirators against Sudan's unity."

Husayn asks why no accusations are leveled at Israel in connection with the attempt on Mubarak, especially as it has an interest in getting rid of him "following President Mubarak's recent stances on its nuclear weapons and its schemes to dominate the Arab region." He notes that the Israeli presence has sharply increased in the Horn of Africa and points out that if there had been an Ethiopian role in the attempt on the president's life, it "would have been a mere mask for the Zionist intelligence services."

He points to increasing signs that the would-be assassins were Egyptians and says that this undermines the government's claim that it has eliminated terrorism. To combat terrorism, Husayn offers the following advice. He urges "recognition of Islam and piety's role in guiding society and the state" and points out that the Egyptian public wants "a strong, democratic, and honest government." He advises that the people be given hope that the government can be changed if it fails to govern well, through honest elections. He urges political reform and reiterates the call to appoint senior presidential aides or vice presidents.

He concludes with these words: "Our insistence on carrying out political reform is legitimate and understandable following the serious criminal assault on the president in Addis Ababa. To end the violence there is certainly a need to implement the daring political reforms we advocate. There will be no stability without these political reforms. We can easily imagine the disturbances that could have happened if the assassination attempt, God forbid, had succeeded."

LABOR PARTY ORGAN DISCUSSES ATTACK ON MUBARAK

A 100-word report on page 1 states that following an urgent meeting on the evening of the day of the attempted assassination of President Mubarak, the Labor Party Political Bureau stressed the need for "comprehensive political reform to eradicate the terrorist phenomenon, notably, providing full guarantees for the honesty of the next general elections, reconsidering the Emergency Law, and swiftly repealing Law 93/1995, which seeks to shackle the press."

The bureau also "voiced concern that hostile foreign forces would exploit the incident to undermine relations between Egypt and Sudan."

U.S. SAID OFFERING HELP AGAINST ISLAMISTS BUT WEARY OF MUBARAK

A 100-word Rome-dated dispatch from Samih al-Jawhari on page 1 says Mubarak neither accepted nor refused an offer from U.S. President Clinton to "strike against Muslim extremists and arrest the suspects in the assassination attempt." Al-Jawhari says the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA recently published an unfriendly article about Mubarak's regime, saying Mubarak is "losing credit with the U.S. Administration, which is looking for a replacement for him."

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official on Status of Talks With Israelis

NC0707074495 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic*
0510 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA minister of economy and trade, in Gaza, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] Good morning, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Quray'] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] We have heard that Israeli Television has announced a plan for the redeployment of Israeli forces that is based on dividing the West Bank into four areas. Has such a plan been proposed to you?

[Quray'] It is not a question of dividing the West Bank into four areas or two areas. It is a question of redeployment according to the phases specified by the Declaration of Principles. The declaration says there must be two chief phases, the first preceding the elections and involving all the populated areas. According to the negotiations that have been going on since December 1994, agreement has been reached on the definition of the term populated areas. They have been specified as the cities, towns, villages, refugee camps, and even nomad communities. The Israeli army will evacuate all these areas, taking its vehicles and equipment with it, 22 days before the elections are due to be held. This is the first phase. The second phase follows the elections and the establishment of a Palestinian council. It consists of a gradual process of redeployment to the border of the area that will come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian council or the PA [Palestinian Authority]. This area, according

to the Declaration of Principles, will include the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, except those areas that are subject to the permanent status negotiations. It has also been agreed that 4 May 1996 will be the deadline for beginning the permanent status negotiations. Here lies the importance of the interim agreement we are discussing now and of which redeployment is a part, not the entire agreement.

[Al-Miliji] Minister Quray', you have referred to the provisions spelled out in the Declaration of Principles. But we would like to know more about your disagreements with the Israelis.

[Quray'] A considerable gap remains. Territory is our concern. We must feel confident that the territory is being restored to the Palestinian Authority, to the Palestinian people. When we feel confident of that, we will be ready to be flexible about taking it back gradually. As is understood, the first phase of the restoration of this territory will end when the borders of the area under Palestinian jurisdiction are agreed upon. For example, as you yourself said at first, we have agreed that the first area, Area A, comprising all the large towns and several small towns, will be handed over comprehensively and we will take over all powers in it. In another populated area there will be some sort of partnership. We will take over all civilian powers and responsibility for public order while Israel will be responsible for some security issues that concern it at this stage. There will be a gradual transfer of security responsibility to the PA. It has also been agreed upon that during this phase the military areas will be transferred gradually to the PA. We are saying this must be done within one year; they are speaking of a year and a half. Negotiations over the last area, the area that contains the Israeli settlements, will begin on 4 May 1996. This is the picture. Of course they are very concerned about security. We understand this but our chief concern is territory. Our firm and unambiguous position is that this territory must be returned as soon as the borders of the area under Palestinian jurisdiction are delineated.

[Al-Miliji] You have suggested that security is the chief Israeli concern. You, the Palestinians, are primarily concerned with the territory. It is your land. What is the chief bone of contention with the Israelis?

[Quray'] Over what?

[Al-Miliji] Your demand for redeployment.

[Quray'] I do not wish to relay to the media issues that are still under negotiation. I am saying that if the gap is bridged over the two issues mentioned, all that will remain will be the issue of writing out the agreements.

We have been negotiating for over six months on this issue, far from the media's eyes, though not really secretly. We have produced close, but not identical, views on these issues. Some disagreement remains over the territorial and security issues. I am not saying that an agreement was finalized at the last meeting between President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister but some concepts were formulated that might help the negotiators bridge the gap.

[Al-Miliji] Minister, according to some Israeli sources, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has agreed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to sign an agreement over redeployment and begin the second phase by 25 July. But Peres is reiterating Prime Minister Rabin's favorite declaration that deadlines are not sacred. In light of the ongoing negotiations and recent declarations, are you optimistic that an agreement will be signed by this date?

[Quray'] We will do our best to reach an agreement. But we will never allow the time factor to hang like a sword over our heads and make us accept just any agreement hastily. Our position is clear, understandable, logical, and unexaggerated. It is a step on the path of our quest to end the occupation. If an agreement is reached before 25 July, we will be happy. We will do our best at the negotiations to achieve that. If we cannot achieve that by this date, I do not think anyone will sign an unsatisfactory agreement just to meet the deadline.

[Al-Miliji] Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has also threatened not to implement the second phase of the agreement unless the PLO and President 'Arafat pledge to amend the PLO Charter two months after the election of the Palestinian legislative council. What is your comment on this?

[Quray'] We are discussing the agreement and how to implement it at this stage. We are still negotiating to reach an agreement. When an agreement is reached that includes amending the Charter as one of its provisions, I believe we must comply, just as we ask them to comply with the agreements. Of course this will happen if the amendment of the Charter is spelled out as a condition in the agreement. We must respect our agreements. They must do the same.

[Al-Miliji] Have you begun any serious negotiations with the Israelis since the meeting between President 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres? How responsive did you find the Israelis?

[Quray'] We are still drawing up a program for the intensive negotiations that will begin next week.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you minister.

[Quray'] Thank you.

'Arafat Accepts International Presence in West Bank

JN0607134695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1300 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said he is ready to accept an international presence and joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols in certain areas of the West Bank.

Following his meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, 'Arafat said that the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank is part of an international agreement that was signed in Washington under the auspices of the United States and Russia.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali stressed during a news conference he held last night that he will present [to the United Nations] a request by the Palestinian National Authority and another by the Israeli Government on the deployment of UN troops in the Palestinian areas to facilitate the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles Agreement, which concerns the redeployment, the elections, and the transfer of civilian powers.

First Group of Forces Ready To Enter West Bank

MM0507093495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 2 Jul 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Forces To Go to West Bank from Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Brigadier General Khalid Mismar, official spokesman of the Palestinian police force, has announced that the first group of Palestinian forces now in Algeria will enter the West Bank via the Rafah crossing in the coming two days.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Mismar said that that first group is part of some 2,000 Palestinian military personnel and administrative cadres who will join the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in succession. He added that a list of 2,000 names was handed [back] to the Palestinian Authority [PA] by Israel last week. He confirmed that others groups would be arriving later on.

Defining the area of operations for the incoming forces, Mismar said: The West Bank will be the area of operation for these forces. Some days ago President Yasir 'Arafat asked all organs to prepare to enter the West Bank, and that includes the security and administrative organs. That is in addition to up to 10,000 security and administrative personnel from within Palestine. During

the redeployment process, over 15,000 security personnel are supposed to enter the West Bank.

Security Forces Ready To Take Over From Israelis

MM0607095995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 6

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Palestinian Intelligence Chief Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Consider Appointment of Abu-al-Za'im as Coordinator of Security Organs Unlikely"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Palestinian Chief of General Intelligence Brigadier General Amin al-Hindi has stated that Palestinian security organs stand ready to move to the areas from which the Israeli Army will withdraw in the course of its redeployment to pave the way for self-rule elections in accordance with the second phase of the Oslo agreements.

In a telephone interview from Gaza, Brig. Gen. al-Hindi said that the Palestinian authorities have completed the coordination between the various organs and defined the centers and responsibilities of each one of them. He added that the timing of the move to the areas from which Israel withdraws in the course of its redeployment would be determined by the Palestinian leadership.

Brig. Gen. al-Hindi declined to give the size of the security teams which will proceed to the areas from which the Israeli Army withdraws, but he said that Palestinian control would be complete. He added: "We have contacted all our cadres and told each one what his responsibilities will be in the new phase."

On Israel's fear of a deterioration in the security situation in the areas from which it withdraws under the second phase of the Oslo agreements, he said: "Those who doubt our security capabilities should compare the security situation in Gaza and Jericho before with what it is now."

It is worth noting here that the Palestinian Intelligence Service is the main security organ created by the National Authority. Other such organs are Military Intelligence, Preventive Security, and Presidential Security.

Brig. Gen. al-Hindi said that he expected the handover of the areas from which Israel is withdrawing to begin in the next few days. He reaffirmed that the Palestinians were ready and had everything prepared.

On the rumors that Major General 'Atallah 'Atallah [Abu-al-Za'im], the former chief of Palestinian military intelligence, will be given the post of security organs coordinator, Brig. Gen. al-Hindi denied any knowledge of that. He said: "We have not been informed of any decision whatsoever in this connection."

He said that it was unlikely that 'Arafat would appoint Abu-al-Za'im to the post. He said: "President 'Arafat is not the kind of man to give in to blackmail. He has never been known to restore to a position of responsibility any of those who have dissented or joined circles outside the Palestinian arena."

As we know, Abu-al-Za'im split from the Palestinian leadership in the second half of the eighties. It is also known that he was once a major in the Jordanian Army and joined the Palestinian revolution after the June war, having been pensioned off by the Jordanian Army.

Kanafani Assails Plans To Build West Bank Settlement

JN0607142695 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, an adviser and spokesman to President Yasir 'Arafat, has denounced reports carried by certain news agencies which say that Israeli settlers in the West Bank have started building a new settlement near Kharbata village in Ramallah District.

Kanafani said: These settlers challenge the atmosphere, the needs, and the conditions of peace and such a challenge now constitutes a serious threat to the peace process. This requires a practical and effective effort by the Israeli Government to stop it and to guarantee that it will not continue if that government is serious about implementing its commitments and obligations.

Kanafani added: Such acts and practices may have been encouraged by statements that run counter to the spirit and letter of the peace process which are made by some Israeli ministers and officials. The latest of these statements was made by the justice minister.

President Yasir 'Arafat's official spokesman said: Such statements do not serve the cause of peace. We do not have to say once again that the National Authority denounces such statements and will always protest against them.

Israeli Sincerity in Honoring Agreements Questioned

TA0607133795 *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
5 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Israeli Labyrinths — and Avoiding the Dues of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli prime minister claims that the redeployment of his army outside Bethlehem and Ramallah will be implemented in stages because of the difficulties in securing passageways for settlers outside these towns. There are two observations

regarding this issue. The first is that if Israel was serious in implementing the second stage of the agreement, why did it not construct those passageways during the more than one year since the implementation of the first stage of the agreement? The second observation is: If Israel has expropriated more than 60 percent of West Bank lands during the long years of occupation, will it expropriate even more land in order to open these passageways? If Israel is now talking about this issue, that constitutes for us a maneuver and proof that it does not seek peace! The issues of the agreement are clear, and when some parties seek to justify the Israeli stance by alleging that Rabin faces strong opposition within Israel, this leads us to conclude that the Israelis do not want to implement the agreement, rather they want both peace and land!

The fact that Israel failed to honor the deadline fanned the feelings of anger in the West Bank. If only this failure to honor deadlines had been confined to the agreement. There is a very sensitive issue that concerns Israel's refusal to release prisoners in Israeli jails. Israel could have coopted the feelings of anger among the Palestinian masses if it had adhered to its commitment in releasing the prisoners. The Palestinian people are fed up with promises from which Israel backs down and which are not worth the paper on which they are written. Despite the clarity of the Palestinian desire for peace and the official and popular Palestinian tendency to achieve progress in the negotiations, Israel has not shown goodwill on any issue. This fact does not leave room for optimism that the agreements will be implemented. During yesterday's meeting of the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships, Shim'on Peres announced a new date for ending the negotiations, namely, 25 July. The Palestinians are getting amused with so many dates. They are hearing noises from the Israelis but they do not see results. Moreover, the Israelis talk about making concessions and that Peres agreed to institute joint patrols between the Palestinian towns from which withdrawal will take place, as if the issue is tactical and technical. The Israeli position is always surrounded with ambiguity, and this is the tragedy with all the agreements with Israel. The issue is not arrangements, but substance. What the Palestinians are demanding is implementation of the second stage of the agreement. That means handing over actual authority and powers to the Palestinians. This is the principal part of the peace process.

We would like to feel that Israel is serious and sincere in implementing the Declaration of Principles. Israel has to choose between the collapse of this agreement and making real concessions that end the occupation of the Palestinian territories. Then, it should proceed to create

a climate of coexistence between the two peoples. The Palestinian people are insisting on attaining achievements and obtaining their rights at the negotiating table. They will reach their goals by their determination and resolve regardless of how much Israel tries to procrastinate and hinder the process. We reject the Israeli Government's excuse that it faces domestic pressures which prevent progress in the agreement. We ask: Why does it ask us to suppress the Palestinian opposition while it allows the Israeli opposition to paralyze the talks and the implementation? Why this contradiction in Israeli statements, why the uproar by the settlers, and why does Israel yield to extremists?

Israel is asking us to accept these contradictions and this uproar, but when the time comes for implementation we find that we need a new agreement to interpret the previous one, and so forth. Israel wants us to wander in labyrinths and in frameworks of flowery concepts, the aim of which is not to make concessions and pay the dues of peace.

And a last question: Do the Israelis really want peace?

New Voter Registration Survey Discussed

95AA0188A *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
25 May 95 p 5

[Article by Muhammad Abu-Khudayr: "Dr. Ishtayyah: Complete Survey and Palestinian Voter Register"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Dr. Muhammad Ishtayyah, a Palestinian Election Committee member, has said that the committee has decided to conduct a complete survey and to compile a register of Palestinian voters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, plus Jerusalem.

In wake of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiation round held in Kfar Sava yesterday, Dr. Ishtayyah said that a voter register will be compiled in cooperation with teachers trained by the election committee, numbering 6,000 male and female teachers.

The civilian administration had provided the Palestine National Authority with a computerized data in Hebrew containing the names of 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to prepare for the election.

Ishtayyah said that, when the names were translated by computer from Hebrew to Arabic, many of them could not be read and the error percentage amounted to 50 percent.

Ishtayyah noted that there are names without clear addresses and errors in the civilian administration records, which do not contain the entire West Bank and Gaza population.

He added, "This has motivated us to compile a new Palestinian voter register. Teachers will go to every home in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem to register every person 17 or older."

Ishtayyah further added, "Any resident of the Palestinian territories who carries a Palestinian or Israeli identity is entitled to take part in the election."

He noted that the Palestinian side has proposed to the Israeli side that Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and hold foreign passports be given the right to vote.

He said that, when the name list is completed, it will be published and supplied to 1,500 voting sites and stations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that a grace period will be given for correction, emendation, contestation, and addition.

Ishtayyah asserted that an accord can be reached on the election but that the election is tied to redeployment, and the committee does not discuss this issue.

On participation by Jerusalem's inhabitants, Ishtayyah rejected the Israeli projection, saying, "I do not believe there is an election on earth in which one is permitted to vote but not permitted to run as a candidate."

He added that the next meeting will be held in Cairo on 29 May 1995 and said that Dr. Sa'ib Urayqat, the local government minister, and Yo'el Singer are holding talks with Europeans on giving them the right to supervise and organize the election internationally.

'Arafat Said Helping Israel Plan Attack on Iran

95LA0233A *Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic*
17 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Israel Preparing To Strike in Coordination With 'Arafat's Group, With Green Light from America and Gulf Air Facilities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MUHARRIR has obtained a most momentous document which confirms that Israel, in coordination with Yasir 'Arafat and the autonomous [Palestinian] Authority, is preparing to aim a strike at Iran after getting air facilities in the Gulf and a green light from the Americans. Training has begun, and 'Arafat's group is helping to prepare and supply information. Work is under way to get the Mojahedin-e Khalq into the game, so that it might supply information about Iran and Iraq.

When an official in the autonomous Authority informed AL-MUHARRIR that abundant information confirmed that the Authority was now hiring itself and its members out to serve Israel's aims, we did not believe it. Then he

followed this up by sending us the minutes of meetings between 'Arafat and Rabin and between 'Arafat and Peres, and we heard some of the tape-recorded remarks over the telephone. We were thunderstruck.

The next day, an AL-MUHARRIR reporter abroad told us what had gone on in the 'Arafat-Rabin and 'Arafat-Peres meetings in a highly significant and momentous letter.

The letter, which told us of the proceedings of the meetings, said that the Palestinian president first discussed security matters pertaining to Palestinian-Israeli relations with the Israeli head of government. Rabin told 'Arafat, "We are meeting today to discuss two topics: first, fighting terrorism and pursuing Hamas and al-Jihad; and second, fighting drug and arms trafficking."

Rabin added, "If we arrive at solutions to these matters, we will find that the rest of the issues will move along smoothly. The important thing is that we reach an agreement on these two matters."

Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] replied, "Do you have any specific proposals for dealing with them? What is it that we need to do?"

Rabin told 'Arafat, "Why don't we form a security committee to deal with these matters? The Israeli Government will pay for it."

"We agree to that," said Abu-'Ammar.

"So you and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will discuss all these matters within the week," said Rabin.

The meeting ended.

Then the Yasir 'Arafat-Shimon Peres meeting was held.

Abu-'Ammar began the meeting by welcoming his friend Peres, and the Israeli minister spoke.

"I have reviewed your talks with Prime Minister Rabin. We are meeting today to deal with implementing things. We may tell you that the Israeli cabinet has decided to pay \$5 million to the Israeli-Palestinian security committee whose formation, role, and action have been decided upon."

"This committee has one mission," said Abu-'Ammar. "To combat terrorism and drug trafficking."

"There are other tasks outside these borders," said Peres. "We are not asking you to go after the subversive organizations in Syria, and this committee will not go after them. That is solely the province of Israeli agencies. We want you here, domestically, and in Iran, as the war against terrorism must engage Tehran. In this

area there must be coordination with the Mojahedin-e Khalq."

"The day after tomorrow," said Abu-'Ammar, "we will receive in Gaza a delegation from the Mojahedin-e Khalq. This has already been arranged by our ambassador in France."

Peres resumed, "How will you choose to form the committee?"

"As a high-level committee," said 'Arafat. "We nominate:

- "1. Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, our advisor for Military and Planning Affairs;
- "2. Major General Nasr Yusuf, chief of police and Palestinian public security;
- "3. Major General Hakam Bal'awi, chief of Palestinian intelligence;
- "4. Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jibali, officer responsible for security investigations;
- "5. Mr. Furayh Abu-Madin, chief of the State Security Court."

Peres said, "As to the Israeli side, the members of the committee were appointed after the meeting between you and Prime Minister Rabin. I propose that you have your nominees to the committee come to Israel and meet with our Chief of Staff to deal with the subject there."

'Arafat said, "Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Hakam al-Bal'awi will go there as soon as you give the signal."

Then other administrative affairs were discussed and the session ended.

Then, the report that AL-MUHARRIR obtained provided the events of the first contact between the members of the Palestinian committee and the Israeli military men, saying:

"We went to Israel. We met with the chief of staff, and among those in attendance was a group of generals, including the chief of military intelligence and his advisor for Iranian affairs and the Gulf Region. The discussion was general with an emphasis on Iran and Iraq's domestic affairs and the role that the Mojahedin-e Khalq could play."

Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya said, "Why don't we have a meeting with the Mojahedin-e Khalq and discuss all these matters with them? Abu-'Ammar is in touch with the Mojahedin-e Khalq about opening an office for them in Gaza. They agreed to do it. We suggest to you that the committee be formed; it need not be called the Israeli-Palestinian Security Committee. It

could be called the Foreign Security Committee with its headquarters in the Gaza Strip."

This was consented to in the presence of the Israeli chief of staff.

The tasks expected of the committee were defined:

gathering information on Iran domestically and abroad and in various fields: economic, political, military, etc.

The tasks for the Mojahedin-e Khalq were then defined.

It is clear from the Israeli request that organized units of the Mojahedin-e Khalq will plant some small electronic devices inside or near vital targets deep inside Iranian territory in the next two months. They asked the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization for access to its abundant information about vital targets inside Iran.

The meeting moved on to forming the committee.

Preparations Have Begun

The Occupied Territory — Special and Secret

Israel is preparing for a broad strike targeted at Iran, and preparations for it have begun with the relevant agencies providing its citizens with the necessary equipment to protect them against poison gases and chemical agents. Drills are under way in schools and on settlements on getting in and out of shelters. Patriot missile platforms have been moved and placed around the nuclear reactors near Beersheba, Jaffa, and Haifa. Reliable information confirms that Israel has obtained a green light from America to strike at Iran and that Abu-'Ammar understands Israel's position and is completely in agreement with it because he wants to be rid of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas and the Islamic resistance in general. Israel has requested airspace facilities from some Arab countries for training purposes. According to other information, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has obtained facilities from some Gulf states in terms of using their airspace and other capabilities for striking vital targets in Iran.

Abu-Rudaynah on 'Arafat-Chirac Meeting in Geneva

*JN0507192795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, in Geneva, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in the studio, on 5 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser: You are

currently in Geneva. What is the significance of the participation of President Yasir 'Arafat in the UN program in Geneva on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations?

[Abu-Rudaynah] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is taking part in this celebration, along with French President Jacques Chirac, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, and some heads of state and prime ministers. As you know, this celebration has important political significance. President Abu-'Ammar met today with several presidents, including French President Jacques Chirac. The meeting lasted almost an hour. It was an important and positive meeting. The two presidents discussed the French and European role in the peace process. France, through President Jacques Chirac, has asserted its support for Palestinian rights and the peace process.

[Al-Qazzaz] Did President Yasir 'Arafat deliver a speech on this occasion?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, President Abu-'Ammar made a brief speech at the ceremony. As you know, dozens of heads of state and prime ministers are attending the ceremony. However, the bilateral meetings were very important.

[Al-Qazzaz] Regarding participation in this ceremony which is organized by the United Nations, does it signify UN support for the Middle East peace process?

[Abu-Rudaynah] This is exactly the question that was posed to President Abu-'Ammar: What is the role of the United Nations in supporting the peace process? President Abu-'Ammar said: We went to the peace conference in Madrid on the basis of international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338. President Abu-'Ammar emphasized the need for the implementation of the Oslo, Cairo, and Washington agreements, which are based on UN Resolution 242 issued in 1967.

[Al-Qazzaz] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, thank you.

[Abu-Rudaynah] You are welcome brother Yusuf.

Algeria

Shura Council Member on U.K. Visit, Elections

MM2806114195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 28 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Abdelkader Khamri, "head of the Algerian group in the Maghreb Shura Council and head of the parliamentary delegation visiting Britain," by Nadya Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mahdid] Is the visit being made at the invitation of British parliamentarians or is it a move by your council?

[Khamri] The visit falls in the framework of the council's move through a number of European, African, and Arab capitals to exchange views and consolidate bilateral relations among parliaments. The visit to Britain is aimed at broadening the horizons for an exchange of views over the situation in Algeria.

[Mahdid] What do you mean by views, and what issues will you discuss?

[Khamri] The situation in Algeria is the focus of attention in British circles. We have come here to explain the situation and hear the opinion of the British — parliamentarians and academics — and their views on the situation in Algeria. [passage omitted]

[Mahdid] Is it true — according to press reports — that Islamic Salvation Front leader Shaykh Abassi Madani and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, have been released and that officials from this front will be included in the election process?

[Khamri] I believe that there is a campaign in this connection, but Algerian television transmitted a commentary denying these rumors.

[Mahdid] But how does the political authority in the country see the presidential elections without the participation of some parties, including the parties to the Rome covenant?

[Khamri] It must be stressed that the presidential elections option emerged after numerous attempts to secure a political solution. It also emerged as a way out to enable the country to make a new move toward resolving the Algerian crisis. As is known, this crisis is not easy. It requires hard work. This work could be launched through the presidential elections option. It has been decided to adopt this option and to conduct extensive consultations with many of the parties concerned. We hope that all these efforts will crystallize into the start of a return of constitutional legitimacy, popular legitimacy, and an electoral process. The option is a starting point, not an aim in itself. [passage omitted]

New Interior Minister Assumes Duties

LD0307132795 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Interior Ministry today, Mustapha Benmansour took up his duties as minister of the interior and local authorities, as a successor to Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif who has been assigned to other duties. The ceremony was attended by all senior officials of the ministry.

Foreign Currency Reserves Increase to \$2.3 Billion

LD2906214295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks on the second phase of restructuring Algeria's public foreign debts will start at the end of July at the Paris Club.

The governor of Algeria's Central Bank has said that, under the second rescheduling, the duration of the IMF program will be three years. Also, talks on a restructuring program with the World Bank are under way; serious talks have started, which could end this year.

Concerning the convertibility of the dinar, the Central Bank governor said that the convertibility includes operations taking place over the next three years, bearing in mind that this convertibility was applied at first in the sphere of foreign trade a year ago, and was extended recently to include studying abroad.

The bank governor said that foreign currency reserves rose to \$2.3 billion two months ago. In March 1994 reserves stood at around \$1 billion. He added that exports will reach \$10.5 billion in 1995, compared with \$9.5 billion in 1994.

Security Forces Eliminate 20 'Terrorists'

LD0607142095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the security services have announced that their forces had managed to eliminate 20 terrorists in the provinces of Mascara and Khenchela. The security forces had also been able to recover a quantity of weapons during these operations, the statement added.

Algerian Airline Suspends Flights to Paris

LD2906132495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Algerie denied AFP reports today that Algeria and France reached an agreement to reduce the number of flights from Algeria to Paris.

Air Algerie said in a statement today that it would suspend all of its flights to Paris as of today. It pointed out that it was forced to make that decision because of the inflexibility of the French stance and France's unilateral decision to transfer all flights to Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport.

The statement said also that Air Algerie stressed its commitment not to spare any effort to reduce the difficulties its customers will face as a result of this situation.

Oil, Gas Workers Return to Work

LD0407213995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 40,000 workers of the oil and gas sector, on strike for the past 10 days, returned to work this morning with a feeling of hope. [passage omitted]

Noureddine Boudierba, trade union federal secretary for social and legal affairs, speaking to Ali Nazim, pointed out that the 10-day strike was not marred by any incidents:

[Begin Boudierba recording] The strike passed off with no incidents. The workers and their representatives behaved responsibly and met all the requirements for ensuring minimum services. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opposition Newsletter Views Islamic Struggle

MS0607121395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 6 Jul 95

[Newsletter Vol 4, No. 27 "publicizing the Islamic struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in Europe" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Editorial — Algeria: The confiscated independence!**

Praise be to Allah who has made the flame of fighting for His cause an ever lasting light shining on generations after generations. A light that gradually transform an ordinary believer from a state of a common sinner to a state of a true Majaheed who sells this world for the reward of the hereafter.

The Fifth of July is the commemoration day of Algeria independence. The historical event which took place in 1962, was the consecration of the Algerian People sacrifice to brake the chains which the oppressors of yesterday wanted to tie him with.

In the front line of the confrontation were the Martyrs and the sincere Majaheed who would rather die standing up than live on the knees.

The Algerian people have got used to the fact that at each commemoration of the independence day, an armada of exhibitionists from the dignitaries of the regime invade the media pretending they are the Majaheed who have save Algeria from the tyranny of the colonialism. Most of them are unknown to the History of Algeria while many of them have fought in the French camp against the martyrs whose graves they are putting flowers on. They have switch camps at a very late stage of the war as independence started to point in the horizon. As a French minister put it recently: "they were in the French army and the fate of the revolution has put them in the Algerian army!"

How about the Algeria people? Well, they are rumours that the military Junta is going to offer them a gift for the occasion: the curfew is to be shorten a little in ten wilayats (provinces)!! The freedom is not for tomorrow!

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when their streets are full of military men having their fingers on the trigger while hiding their faces? The word has been on the street for a long time now that these soldiers could well not be Algerians at all!

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when they are not even allowed to circulate freely as soon as the sun comes down? They are not allowed to go or take their relatives to hospital at such hours and the ambulances do not respond?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when ten of thousands of them are in the Sahara concentration camps and in jails and prisons?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when they know that even in jail, their relatives are not save from a carnage if their jailers wished to perpetrate?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when their freedom of speech and expression have been confiscated?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when they are under "the boots" of those who have established systematic torture as a means to dictate their will?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when Algeria's institutions are transformed into oppressive tools directed in "domesticating" the Algerians?

What independence can the Algerian people celebrate when they are strongly forbidden the freedom of chosing their representatives with a death toll of 50,000 people (so far)? These raisons for not celebrating are very similar to the raisons why the Algerian people have taken arms against the French colonialism!

The Algerian mountains, plains, villages and cities must have cried after 05/07/62 when they saw the Algerian people who have chosen to live upright being put back to their knees again! Yet they must have smiled again when, after the savage oppression which followed the military coup, they saw waves after waves of the offsprings holding the "dignity torch" of their predecessors. Yes Algeria can celebrate what she sees in her sons the sincere Mujahedeen. She probably sees in them the same spirit their predecessors, the free men, had in that land in the far past while she must rejoice to Allah Saying about them:

"Among the believers are men who have been true to what they have covenanted with Allah. Some of them have paid their vow by death (in battle) and some are still waiting; and they have not altered in the least" (Koran Surat El Ahzab,33:23)

Amnesty International worries for the case of Hachani!

According to the magazine JEUNE AFRIQUE of 29/06/95, Amnesty international is worried about the case of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader Abdelkader Hachani. Hachani became the provisional leader of the FIS after the arrest of Dr Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj. Hachani has taken the FIS to the victory in the elections of December 1991 and was arrested few days after the coup d'etat of January 1992. Up to now and contrary to what the French official News agency AFP says, Hachani has not been trailed yet. He has undergone many hunger strikes to protest about the fact that he has been jailed for three and a half years without trial. He was wounded during the carnage of Serkadji prison of January 1995. Since then he has been removed from Serkadji prison. According to JEUNE AFRIQUE, some people believe that he is under house arrest and some believe he is under medical care in one of the hospitals thus the Amnesty's worries.

Each member of Amnesty International follow personally the case of one prisoner. The one following Hachani case has been in Algeria since 27/06/95 to enquire about the health of Hachani. May Allah hasten his liberation as well as that of all brothers and sisters in the Junta jails and concentration camps.

The FIS/Junta "negotiations": Who is talking about it?

Everybody is trying to make his way to the front line and face the media to talk about the "negotiations" except.....the first concerned — the FIS.

One can hear people from the Junta fabricated parliament, people known only to their relatives, other Is-

lamic parties...etc, tell the press in details what Dr Abbassi Madani has eaten in the morning, what Shaykh Ali Belhadj is going to say next month, what Abdelkader Hachani is thinking to do ...what ... and what...and what...

It makes one wonder how some people have the guts to try to get some political dividends showing their sympathy to the FIS leaders once the Junta seems to have allowed it. He, who felt really hurt about the Junta injustice toward the FIS leaders in jail, is with his brothers in the maquis of Z'barbar, DjiDjel, Bouzegza, Ain Defla, Aures, Djurdjura...

Commenting on the "cacophony" made around this matter, Shaykh Kamel Guemazi, when contacted on Tuesday (04/07/95) said that: "there is absolutely nothing official and as you know, it is our Islamic duty to inform in order to dissipate unfounded rumours."

The Algerian political opposition and the human rights abuses!

The political parties who signed the "National contract" in Rome, have issued a communique in which it is announced that a campaign under the title of "open door on Human Rights" will be launched from 10/07/95 at the "Algeria" cinema in Algiers. This campaign is open to the public with the aim of "stopping the deterioration of Human Right situation and participating the citizens in condemning it".

The communique points to: "the injustice, assassinations, imprisonment, kidnapping, confiscations of civil liberties and suppression of protest and the tiding up of freedom of expression."

The parties have also met last thursday (29/06/95) at the MDA headquarters. The FIS was represented by Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djedi. The communique was signed by Khaled Bensmail (MDA) in the name of all parties.

The use and dispose of another Junta valet!

The Junta valet Mr Cherif Meziane the Junta interior minister was disposed of by his masters. The Junta News Agency APS said in a very short statement that interior minister Mezian Cherif has been relieved of his duties at the request of the Junta prime minister and will be assigned to another post (which in the Junta terminology means that he is finished for good!). The statement did not say why he was sacked.

Mr Mezian Cherif has been used and abused by the Junta for about a year before being disposed of.

The new Junta interior minister is named as Mustapha Benmansour, the Junta governor of eastern province of Annaba.

Of course, Mr Mezian Cherif, and all the previous Junta prime-minister and interior ministers, are accountable for all abuses and tortures that took place in the police centres while they were in office. They have accepted a position that states officially that the above centre are under their responsibilities.

Jihad and Mujahedeen News:

"We don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to grab the right of the people to freely choose." (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah Ali Belhadj in "Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dalm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"), page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992) Chlef: On Wednesday 28/06/95, the Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a group of Junta gendarmes. Many dead are reported in the Junta ranks. As-Semar: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush against a convoy of three vehicles full of Junta republican guards. All the Junta soldiers were shot dead and the three vehicles were destroyed. Chlef: About ten days ago, the Mujahedeen have attacked a big assembly of Junta policemen and armed militia. Many of the Junta troops were shot and the leader of the armed militia was taken by the mujahedeen. He disclose to them the storage place which was visited by the Mujahedeen right away and from which they confiscate a good quantity of weapons and ammunition. Ghelizan: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta military vehicle full of soldiers. All of the occupants were shot dead.

In the same region, more than twenty successful Mujahedeen operations have taken place lately. The details are not yet known. El Kalitousse: The Mujahedeen have attacked a convoy of two Junta vehicles. All the occupants of the first vehicle were shot dead and the second vehicle was lucky and escaped from the Mujahedeen bullets.

Reflection on the state of the Ummah:

The Judicial function in Islam!

Praise be to Allah who Says: "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest

you swerve, and if you distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all you do" (Koran surat An-Nissa S4:135). Allah has ordered us to be just even if it may seem to be against ourselves and not to incline in our judgement toward family ties for example or material interest (to favour of the rich) or even compassion (to favour the poor). If this is required from each individual, then what should be the rules for a society in order that all the people become equal in front of the Law. Two conditions need to be fulfil i.e. a just set of laws and an independent judiciary system. The set of laws in Islam is the Sharia for which Allah (SWT) has said: "But no by your Lord, they can have no Faith until they make you judge in all disputes between them. And find in their souls no resistance against your decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction." (Koran Surat An-Nissa S4:65).

For the other condition i.e. the independence of the Judiciary system, it has been and it still is the eternal struggle between unjust rulers of the Ummah and sincere Islamic scholars. Because of the courage and high level of faith needed to make legal decisions based on the teachings of Islam fearing Allah only and not His creatures no matter how tyrannic they may be, saying truth in the face of a dictator is considered in Islam as the best of Jihad. The independence of the judiciary has lived just the time of the righteous khilafa and during very few other rulers. The level of justice reached in those periods is unique in the human history. Many examples of ordinary citizen taking the Khalifa to court illustrate the fact that the Justice professed in Islam is not an utopia. Once Ubayy bin Ka'b took the Khalifa Umar Ibn Al-Khattab to the court of Zaid Ibn Thabit at Medina. Zaid wanted to stand up to show respect to the Khalifa, on which Umar (R.A.A) remarked: "This is your first unjust behaviour." Then Umar sat with Ubayy, the complainant like an ordinary person. In the same case Ubayy wanted Umar to take oath, but Zaid wanted to spare him because of the dignity of his office. Seeing this, Umar (R.A.A) admonished him, "You cannot be a just Qadi (Judge) until a common man is equal to Umar before you." Another example is the case of the khalifa Ali Ibn Abi Talib who took a Christian to court because he saw him in the market selling his lost armour. Because the khalifa could not prove that the armour was in fact his property, the judge gave his decision in favour of the Christian.

One may be surprised by why scholars of Islam are still making reference to the work of few scholars that have passed away few centuries ago. The scholars whose work have survive them are those with a great inside in the Islamic teachings and who were most of the time persecuted by rulers. Such was the case of

Imam Abu Hanifa was whipped and imprisoned both by the Umayyads and the Abbasides and was eventually poisoned. Imam Malik was awarded 70 lashes during the reign of Al-Mansoor, the Abbaside, and was tied so tightly that his hand was pulled out from the arm. Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal was tortured many times in the days of Al-Mamun, M'utasim and Wathiq and was flogged in a manner too cruel even for camels and elephants. But when Mutawakkil succeeded to the throne, conditions took the reverse shape. The Imam began to be so highly esteemed and honoured with all sorts of kingly gifts and presents that he painfully cried out: "It is harder on me than the lash and imprisonment."

It is indeed the result of the labours and perseverance of such scholars that all the authoritative works on the Koran and Islamic law and all the authentic collections of "Hadith" that have reached us, have remained wonderfully pure throughout centuries.

But today scholars who are directly or indirectly related to rulers are being used as "political anaesthesia" for the Muslim masses in order not to wake up and start demanding account to their rulers.

The state in which the Ummah is today has given more credibility to scholars whose frankness have made them enemies and a danger to the regimes which want to rule the Muslim by their personnel laws. This was best illustrated during the election of december 1991 in Algeria where an old illiterate women came to the voting bureau and asked the people which number in the list represent the Muslim party. She was answered that there were three Islamic parties (the FIS, Annahda and Hamas). She immediately replied: "I just want to vote for the Islamic party whose leaders are in jail!" She meant Shaykh Abbassi Madani And Ali Belhadj may Allah protect them and free them from the junta jail with all the brothers and sisters. How can not a Muslim believe in the sincerity of a scholar who from the tyranny jail still write: "we don't like to" beat about the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to snatch the right of the people to freely choose. (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah Ali Belhadj in "Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam (1992).") May Allah provide this Ummah with scholars that fear nobody but Him. So they can illuminate the road to salvation particularly at the end of this century. Amine!

Egypt

Statement Attributed to Mubarak Denied

NC0607212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2015 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that the report published in Kuwait's AL-WATAN today as an exclusive statement to the newspaper by President Husni Mubarak is inaccurate. It reflects only the views of its author, which were incomplete and flawed, he said.

In a statement this evening, the information minister explained that President Husni Mubarak did not give an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN or any other newspaper. He said the president only met with a delegation of Kuwaiti women that congratulated him on his escape from the sinful attack in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

The minister said the meeting was not the usual or appropriate type for giving interviews to the press or for making statements. He added: Thus, what the newspaper published today was not really a press statement in the professional sense; it only reflected the views of the writer, which were far removed from the occasion and its issues.

Sudanese Regime 'Carries Seeds of Its Own Collapse'

NC0607135395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Jul 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The al-Bashir-al-Turabi Regime Is Outdated and Carries the Seeds of its Collapse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are basic facts regarding the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's stance on Egypt and on the vital interests of the fraternal Egyptian and Sudanese people. The first and most important fact is that this stance conflicts with sound logic, with historic and geographic reality, and, hence, with the essence of the relations between the two neighboring countries and peoples. These relations are special and unparalleled. Throughout history the Egyptian and Sudanese people have realized that these relations are everlasting, deep, and inviolable, regardless of the circumstances. Herein lies the grave mistake of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime and this regime's policy toward Egypt and toward Arab, African, and international issues.

No one knows the reason for the Sudanese regime's irresponsible behavior and stance regarding Egypt in particular. The most plausible reason is the regime's

desire to camouflage and divert attention from the bad economic conditions in which the Sudanese people are living.

The Sudanese regime's hostile and provocative practices and stances toward Egypt began soon after al-Bashir and al-Turabi seized power in Sudan. These practices and stances have been accumulating, peaking in the past two weeks. Since the terrorist and criminal attack on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, al-Turabi and some of al-Bashir's ministers have been threatening Egypt and its people that they will violate the international agreements on the Nile's water. Although these threats are empty and irresponsible they have served to remind the Egyptian people that they should be alert and vigilant and defend their lifeline.

Certainly, the Sudanese people fully support the Egyptian people against those who have reached this level of madness and delirium. The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime is oppressing the Sudanese people right now but the people will ultimately have the upper hand.

The second fact regarding the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's practices and policies against the vital interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese people and against the vital interests of the Arab and African peoples is that this regime is outdated. The current trend is to achieve economic and social development under an umbrella of cooperation and mutual benefit and to respect and safeguard human rights. The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime believes it can change the Arab world and control it through terrorism. This regime has allied itself and cooperated with the cells of terrorism in all the Arab countries. Al-Turabi dreams of ruling a great empire comprising the whole Arab world.

The third fact is that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime carries the seeds of its own collapse, because it is working against the vital interests of the Sudanese people, is antagonizing all its neighbors, and is living against the trends of the age.

The question is: Can such a regime reform and straighten its policies? If it cannot—and this is certain—can it survive? Soon the answer will emerge.

Papers Criticizes Regime

NC0707062395 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0509 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM asserts that none of the pillars of the Sudanese regime can claim the tense relations between Egypt and Sudan are a passing and exceptional phenomenon; they are, in reality, the

product of reckless policies that have spoiled Sudan's ties with its neighbors.

In an editorial today the paper declares that Cairo has consistently tried to contain the disagreements and prevent the contradictions provoked by Sudan's ruling circles from escalating.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the tension between Sudan and its neighbors can be attributed to the control exercised by al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front over Khartoum's government and its turning the Sudanese capital into a hotbed of conspiracy against neighboring countries by encouraging terrorist operations against them on the pretext of disseminating Islamic fundamentalism. The paper says that all this boils down to conspiracies against these countries' legitimate governments and an attempt to undermine them through false professions of Islam.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the Sudanese regime's regional and international isolation is the result of al-Turabi's irresponsible policy, which proved to all adjacent countries that the Sudanese Government does not respect the obligations of neighborliness, but has turned Sudanese territory into an arena for fundamentalists gathered from worldwide, particularly those individuals known as "the Afghan Arabs." [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR declares that Hasan al-Turabi would be wrong if he imagined that each day that passes without the details of the vile conspiracy against President Hosni Mubarak being revealed his illegitimate regime will be further from the spotlight that might expose its scandalous behavior to the world.

It adds that the day will come when all the hidden facts will be revealed and declares that Cairo will not rest until it removes the fig leaf that covers al-Turabi's shame and leaves him naked before people everywhere. [passage omitted]

'Vital Clues' Said Found on Mubarak Attack

NC0707104095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0952 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that the Egyptian security services, which have been operating in high-level security teams inside Egypt and abroad, now have "critical information and vital clues" about the sinful attack in Addis Ababa. He explained that this information might lead to revelations about the circumstances of the entire terrorist operation.

He said Egyptian security teams are coordinating the data they have collected with the investigation carried

out by their Ethiopian counterparts so as to obtain "the full facts about the incident, how it was planned, and who financed it."

Al-Alfi's remarks came in a statement to today's AL-AHRAM.

He said the reactions of terrorist leaders abroad, their meetings, and all their movements in Africa and beyond, particularly the extent of their connection with the evil attempt on the president's life, are under constant surveillance by Egyptian security personnel.

The interior minister said several high-level security teams are carrying out investigations in Egypt and abroad to collect all the available data on the incident.

He announced: "We have sufficient information about every location used by the planners and perpetrators of terrorist operations." [passage omitted]

Minister: Water Supply 'Cannot Be Touched'

NC0607132795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1303 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Works and Water Resources Minister 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi has declared that Nile water resources and Egypt's 55.5-billion-cubic-meter share of them cannot be touched. He said that the Nile waters are not the property of one person but belong to a whole nation and successive generations.

In remarks to the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, the Egyptian minister said that the distribution of water among the Nile basin countries is governed by international agreements such as the 1959 agreement. He declared that any violation of this agreement will be deemed "an encroachment on the life and destiny of whole nations."

He emphasized that Egypt will not allow any individual to compromise its security or its people's destiny.

Explaining that Sudan uses only 15 billion cubic meters of its 18.5-billion annual share, Radi noted that Sudan does not possess the capability to hold back any part of Egypt's annual share of Nile water or even to utilize the 3.5-billion-cubic-meter surplus of its own share. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Discusses Drop in Inflation, Economic Growth

NC0407132895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today met Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, currently visiting Cairo as the representative of the Arab group in the IMF.

Discussions dealt with cooperation between Egypt and the IMF.

Dr. Sidqi stressed that the economic reform program is proceeding at a reasonable rate and that inflation has dropped from around 7.8 percent during the first half of this year and is expected to drop further during the second half.

In statements to correspondents, the prime minister said the economic growth rate has reached 4 percent and is expected to reach 5 percent by mid 1996. He added that the government is continuing to reform public sector companies and that privatization is proceeding normally and in a way that does not affect the real values of these companies.

Studies Advocate Building Nuclear Reactors

NC0407143795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
27 Jun 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that Egypt is studying several plans to start its nuclear program. Contacts are under way with several European and Asian countries to build a number of nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes. Responsible sources say that China, Russia, and Ukraine are among those countries because they have the necessary technology and equipment for generating nuclear power.

Work on Egypt's nuclear program stopped several years ago when a national decree was issued in the wake of the radiation leak from the Soviet reactor at Chernobyl. But following several reports and studies, Cairo saw the importance of resuming its peaceful nuclear program. The Foreign Ministry was among the leading organs that prepared these studies. It stressed the importance of Egypt benefiting from nuclear energy technology for its development plan.

Regarding the contacts between Egypt and Israel on making the Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, AL-SHA'B has learned that these contacts have reached a deadlock since the Zionist officials' refusal to reply to Egyptian proposals demanding the start of bilateral nuclear negotiations.

Five Policemen Killed in Attack on Car

NC0607112295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1030 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Five policemen were martyred this morning and two conscripts and a citizen were injured when unknown assailants attacked a police car accompanying another car transporting the public examination papers for a high school in the city of al-Sahil in Asyut.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry stated that the assailants this morning fired at the police car accompanying the car transporting the papers of the secondary school-leaving public examinations when it stopped outside the al-Sahil school in Asyut.

The source said that Conscript Dahi Hammad and Police Constable Muhammad Ahmad Firghali from the al-Sahil fire brigade, which is close to the place where the incident took place, tried to tackle the perpetrators but the latter managed to flee, taking advantage of the crowds in the markets.

The incident led to the martyrdom of Captain Hisham 'Abd-al- Wahhab Fadali, Corporal 'Id Jalal Kamal, Conscript Muhammad Talab Fahmi, Conscript Muhammad al-Sayyad, and Police Constable Muhammad Ahmad Firghali.

Injured in the incident were Conscript Khalaf 'Atif Mubarak and Conscript Dahi Hammad from the Asyut Security Department. A citizen called 'Abd-al-Hamid Huraydi, an employee of the Education Department, was also injured.

The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment. The Asyut Security Department heads, Public Security officers, and experts from the criminal laboratory immediately went to the scene of the crime to inspect the evidence left behind. The police are continuing their efforts to arrest the perpetrators and the prosecution has been informed to proceed with investigations.

Police Kill 3 'Terrorists' in al-Minya

NC0607150895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1420 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Police today killed three fugitive terrorists, who had participated in several criminal acts, when they stormed the terrorist's hideout in Bani 'Ubayd village in Abu Qurqas District in al-Minya Governorate in Upper Egypt.

An authoritative security source said that as part of hunting down the criminal fugitives who were behind recent acts of violence, police stormed the hideout. The terrorists opened fire on the police force, which returned fire. Three terrorists were killed in the exchange; two were Majdi Faruq Mu'adh Ibrahim and Salah Salih Farghal Hasan. The identity of the third terrorist is unknown. [passage omitted]

Movie Owner Jailed for 'Immoral' Posters

NC0107175895 Paris AFP in English
1659 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 1 (AFP) — An Egyptian Christian cinema owner was sentenced to three months in jail with hard labor Saturday [1 July] after Islamist lawyers took him to court for displaying "immoral" movie posters depicting a kissing couple.

In an unprecedentedly harsh sentence a criminal court slapped the jail sentence and a fine of 500 Egyptian pounds (145 dollars) on Badi' Subhi, owner of the Shubra Palace and Misr cinemas.

"This was a political case. There is no doubt now that (Islamists) have penetrated the courts," Subhi told AFP.

Shaykh Yusuf Badri, a former member of parliament close to the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood, raised the case along with nine other lawyers, saying the poster for a 25-year-old movie "attacked public morals and incited immorality."

Subhi compared his case to that of Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd, a university professor who was ruled a heretic because of his writings and ordered separated from his wife by an appeals court in June, a judgment that came as a shock to Egypt's liberal intellectuals.

"It's just like Abu-Zayd. It has gotten that if someone walks down the street in red pants an Islamist can raise a case against him and say he's against Islam," he said.

"Badri said in his case I was destroying the bases of Islam. What do movie posters have to do with Islam?"

"They would not have raised this case against a Moslem. This is because I am a Christian," Subhi added.

Badri told the court that his case was not raised on religious grounds, but on laws that demand censors' approval of posters before they are displayed, legal sources said.

"I'm not using the language of halal and haram" — "permitted and forbidden" by Islam — "but simply the language of the law, which forbids these scandalous posters," he said.

The movie censor testified that it had not granted permission for the posters for the 1969 hit film "Abi Fawq al-Shajarah" (My Father's in the Tree), the sources added.

They showed the film's hero, played by Egyptian singer 'Abd-al- Halim Hafiz, locked in a kiss with his leading lady, actress Nadia Lutfi.

But Subhi countered that he had proof of certification for the posters, saying they "got the censor's approval 30 years ago and the same posters have been hung ever since."

"In any case it's the censor's job to raise a court case if there is a crime. Badri lives in Ma'adi (an upper class south Cairo suburb), my cinema is in Bab al-Sha'ariyah (a northern slum). What does he have to do with it," he added.

Libya

Islamic Opposition on Regime's 'Rabid Campaign'

MM0607153995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic

6 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Islamic Group: Regime Hunting Islamists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Libyan Islamic Group has accused the Libyan regime of launching an arrest campaign against the Islamists in Libya and spoken of clashes between the regime's security organs and the Islamists.

A statement issued by the group's Political Bureau in London said that "the latest link in the terror chain has been the rabid campaign launched by the regime's repressive organs which has been continuing since 2 June against the youth of the Islamic awakening in Libya, taking the forms of murder, detention, and torture, particularly after the recent provocative storming operations targeting some youth. That led to clashes between the regime's security organs and groups of Islamic youths, leaving no room for doubt that the regime and its organs... are taking a stand of hostility toward the noble Libyan people and their blessed Islamic awakening."

It added: "While we believe that the program of Islamic action and change is vast, absorbs all the various aspects of reform, and is not confined to the method of armed confrontation, we are certain that the provocative attitude of the regime toward the Islamic youth, with affront to their religion and their person, is the main reason for the promotion of that method as a natural and expected reaction by those youths who are enthusiastic about and protective of their religion."

It continued: "The effect of these events is clear in the confusion of the regime and its organs and their inability to impose full control, and in the conspicuous and strong resentment by all sectors of society, with the clear indication of [the regime's] imminent collapse.... The bright future will, God willing, lie with the divine Islamic alternative which upholds God's Shari'ah on earth and which is represented by this Islamic arena with all its factions and the sacrifices it has made and

is making, drawing strength from the genuine character of this Muslim people and their glorious history."

In conclusion, it said: "We look with hope to that Islamic alternative which is beginning to impose itself despite the enemies. We express our admiration for and trust in this Islamic arena in Libya, with its various factions, because of the special maturity which distinguishes it from other Islamic arenas and which makes it capable of unity in defining the meaning of goodness and power and in upholding the sublime divine values, surpassing the peripheral issues which have no value in the confrontation between right and wrong."

France's Decision To Resume Nuclear Tests Praised

LD3006223395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic

1630 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 30 Jun (JANA) — AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper published an editorial today entitled "The Required Balance" on France's decision to resume its nuclear tests.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said: "We all have wanted the specter of nuclear weapons to vanish. Proceeding from its human principles and objectives, the great al-Fatih revolution has always demanded the abolition and final destruction of nuclear weapons so that they do not remain a specter haunting the peoples of the world and threatening their security and peace."

It added: "Our opinion regarding this matter in particular has always been clear. But the neo-colonialist power, which took advantage of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, has left no choice for the peoples other than themselves but to seek to obtain the advanced weapons they need. Thus they can protect themselves against domination by the powerful ones who seek to isolate the world and take it unawares."

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR explained: "The former Soviet Union was a real deterrent; the United States, and its present allies, could not talk aggressively to it or threaten peaceful peoples by relying on the support of its nuclear arsenal... The situation remained balanced to a great extent despite the two superpowers' secret race. But this balance was lost following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the United States' awareness of the golden opportunity it does not want to miss if it is to dictate its terms later on. This balance is what often made us stress the importance of the disappearance of the specter of nuclear weapons, or at least that there should be a balance that curbs power freaks."

The newspaper went on to say: "During the nuclear disarmament conference, which was held more than

a month ago in the United States, the United States decided to give itself the 'legitimacy' of playing with nuclear weapons and banned it for others. This decision was truly a serious turning point and a significant sign beyond any doubt that the world is heading for the unknown and that the United States has already begun dictating its terms... Despite this, some thought that the world would not lose its balance. Some accepted the fait accompli. Some derided any rebellion against this fait accompli which the United States is trying to strengthen. Yet the free will of many peoples and the ability of wise politicians to shuffle the cards so as to give the world its balance back is what really worked and has become a certainty."

The newspaper emphasized that France, which some had thought had been tamed and had submitted to the United States, has rebelled against this unjust decision and deliberate attempt to stifle the peoples. It has broken its shackles. In its own name and on behalf of millions of other people it announced the resumption of its nuclear program. It saw what was agreed upon in the United States as nothing but the monopolization of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, which will have serious consequences.

Serbian President Sends Message to al-Qadhdhafi

*LD2906164895 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1436 GMT 29 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, June 29 (TANJUG) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has sent a personal message to Libyan President Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi saying that Yugoslavia highly appreciates friendly Libya's consistent and constructive stands toward the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

The message was communicated to al-Qadhdhafi late Wednesday [28 June] by Borisav Jovic, Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) vice president and chairman of Yugoslav parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Milosevic's letter also said that Yugoslavia attached extreme importance to further upgrading and development of traditional friendly relations and cooperation between Yugoslavia and Libya.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said at a meeting with Jovic that many bridges of friendship and cooperation had been built between Libya and Yugoslavia and that it meant a great deal to Libya to preserve this traditional friendship.

Commenting on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, al-Qadhdhafi said that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a result of major powers' interference and imposition of interests. He said he did not believe that the United States was defending Islam and Muslims.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that in terms of religion, the orthodox creed was the closest one to Islam and that these two religions had traditional and historical relations and ties.

Referring to the sanctions against Yugoslavia and Libya, Jovic and al-Qadhdhafi both said they condemned such arbitrary and unjust forms of collective punishment of entire nations.

Iranian Agriculture Minister Visits Pipeline Factory

*LD0507213895 Tripoli JANA in English
1738 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sirte, 5 Jul, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — 'Isa Kalantari, the Iranian minister for agriculture and the delegation in his company who are currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya last night, visited Labriga factory for concrete pipelines which is part of the great man-made river project.

The minister and the delegation in his company were briefed during this visit by the Libyan Arab engineers running this huge industrial achievement for carrying the waters of the great man-made river.

The Iranian minister expressed his big admiration for the achievements he saw realized in the Great Jamahiriya thanks to the great Al Fateh revolution. He stressed that the great man-made river was one of the huge civilizational achievements which will contribute effectively towards agricultural and industrial development and providing drinking water.

He pointed out that there were many scopes for cooperation between the Great Jamahiriya and Iran in the fields of water, soil, agricultural machinery engineering, putting an end to desertification and raising livestock and similar fields between the Great Jamahiriya and Iran in the nature of land and climate.

Signs Agriculture Agreement

*LD0507223895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes for cooperation between the Libya and Iran were signed this evening in Tripoli.

The minutes, which were signed by 'Isa 'Abd-al-Kafi, brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture, and Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, included the strengthening of the prospects of the existing cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural spheres.

Morocco

***Spain's Efforts To Block EU Market Access Cited**
95AF0106C Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 27 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Signs of tension have begun to appear in Moroccan-European relations. This, after Moroccan protests in early May to European capitals and European Union [EU] authorities failed to prompt the Europeans to stop the Spaniards' declared war against Moroccan products destined for EU markets. This development may presage resort to undesirable measures.

Amid the Spaniards' continued blockade against Moroccan products, Morocco's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Abdellatif Filali yesterday afternoon (Thursday) received Mr. Mark Pyrene [name as transliterated], chairman of the European Committee mission in Rabat, to inform him of Morocco's disappointment with the position of the European authorities, "who have, unfortunately, not acted to translate their declarations of condemnation into concrete measures to stop these unacceptable actions."

Mr. Filali apprised the European representative of the possible effects of said actions, which are liable to damage primarily those who are carrying out the blockade actions and denying access to Spanish ports.

A statement issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in this regard indicates that the ministry—after having condemned, on 13 May 1995, the blockade actions that have targeted Moroccan products destined for European markets since the Morocco-EU maritime fishing agreement expired—had hoped that the pertinent authorities would take appropriate measures to ensure the arrival of Moroccan products at their final destination, pursuant to agreements and laws in effect. However, Moroccan authorities were dismayed by the escalation in blockade and harassment actions, which have even been directed by some authorities in southern Spain against Moroccan citizens residing in or passing through Spain.

The ministry's statement also mentions that Morocco had called, in its protest actions, for an immediate return to a normal situation to preserve the atmosphere of sincerity needed for the harmonious development of relations with the EU and its member states, especially Spain, in accordance with the principles and goals of the friendship treaty, good neighborliness, and cooperation between the two countries. However, its call fell on deaf ears, which further exacerbated the situation.

After this statement was issued, and after new shipping lines were established between Moroccan and southern

French ports to avoid transit through Spain, the Spanish central and provincial authorities announced on Thursday their determination to protect trucks coming from Morocco from the harassment to which they have been subjected in Andalusia.

In this regard, Luis Atienza, Spanish minister of agriculture, fisheries, and food, announced that trucks carrying Moroccan goods would be protected by a civil guard from the blockade imposed by Spanish fishermen. He stressed that the Spanish Government is responsible for defending the legality and guaranteeing the unimpeded movement of goods. He called on the fishing sector to calmly wait for the resumption of Morocco-EU negotiations on 1 June 1995.

For his part, Cadiz Civil Governor Tisar Parrana [name as transliterated] promised to guarantee the transit of goods. He warned that harassment directed against Moroccan products could affect Spanish contracting activity. He also described as hostile and unfortunate the position of the mayor of Caceres, Extramadura, who refused to give municipal credentials to Moroccan citizens residing in this area.

Notably, neither of these two officials dealt with the difficulties stemming from the tightened health control that is preventing the marketing of Moroccan products. This control, which is attired in legal garb, can be exploited as a procedural excuse to effect the spoilage of Moroccan products, influence their quality, delay their arrival, or at least raise their transit costs and thus reduce their competitiveness.

According to our Tetouan bureau, the Spanish media reported Morocco's protest to the European Committee. Some of the Spanish media coverage criticized the attacks against Moroccan products and mentioned the above-mentioned official Spanish position announced by the fisheries minister and the EU position enunciated by Fishing Affairs Commissioner Ms. Penin [name as transliterated], which censures the destruction of Moroccan sea products. Spain's Channel One television station reported that the Andalusian sailors and fishing boat owners have decided, based on the aforementioned, to soften their position. They announced that, as of Monday, they will blockade only trucks carrying fish.

In a related development, a group of fishermen told our Tetouan bureau that 32 Spanish trucks remained waiting until 1200 at the Tangier Port for permission to cross.

Of note, a group of Moroccan professionals received with great satisfaction Morocco's establishment of new maritime shipping lines connecting it with southern France. However, they noted that the success of this measure and adoption of it as part of Morocco's

strategic position require major efforts and sacrifices to ensure arrival of Moroccan goods in European markets in good, competitive condition. To achieve this goal, they called on Moroccan authorities to take into account all transactions regulating commercial activity when they set shipping prices.

Also of note, Andalusian sailors and fish suppliers have decided to conduct a general strike on 1 June, the date for the resumption of Moroccan-European discussions regarding the renewal of the maritime fishing agreement.

***Government Announces Program To Combat Drought**

95AF0106A Rabat AL-ITTihad AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 21 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The main points of a remedial program to combat the effects of the drought were recently announced. This program focuses on three main areas: the feeding of livestock, drinking water, and job creation.

According to government sources, this program, which has been prepared in view of the drought disaster's tangible effects on rural life, has been defined precisely, and its requirements have been established, based on expectations.

The drought of 1995 is clearly an exceptional drought. It has hit most of the country and has directly affected various utilities and sectors in the Moroccan desert.

Thus, agricultural production is not expected to exceed one-fifth of the output recorded in previous years. Grain production will not exceed 16.5 million kantars, which, several official investigations indicate, is liable to affect economic growth and employment, perhaps causing the GDP to drop by 5 to 7 percent.

The water reserve behind Morocco's dams is only one-third of the nominal reserve—i.e., about 3.5 billion cubic meters—and the capacity of dams is below a level adequate to meet irrigation needs.

Regarding livestock production, despite the high price of meat, governmental sources state that the flocks and herds are in good condition, although, in the near future, their condition will depend on the procurement and distribution of fodder, drinking water, inoculations, and other livestock raising requirements.

The government's program to combat the effects of the drought is general in nature (livestock production, water, and employment). Still needed are a careful examination of requirements and the balanced control of activities in an atmosphere of openness and administrative fairness. In this regard, we point to the water problem, for which

the program allocates 60 billion centimes. More than half this sum will be used by the government to cope with the situation in Tangier. The rest will be allocated to the livestock raising program.

This raises questions regarding the far-reaching, strategic measures required by the water problem, i.e., well digging, ground water exploitation, drilling for water, and giving serious consideration to nuclear-powered sea water desalinization.

Regarding employment, the program to employ people in agricultural workshops between July and November specifies neither the exact number of people who can be absorbed in these workshops nor the nature of the proposed workshops.

Similar activities programmed during past droughts have failed. What is needed now are jobs that help deal with the effects of the drought in rural areas, e.g., well digging. The creation of such jobs will help mobilize people on a grass-roots level in the rural areas.

Another factor bearing on the program to combat the effects of drought, and a source of complaints in the rural sector, are difficulties related to the administrative apparatus and to the agricultural loans taken out by farms, which total 165 billion centimes. Creditors have begun to take coercive and garnishment measures to receive the payments due them. All such measures should be discontinued, and said debts should be rescheduled to relieve the pressures brought to bear farmers by the drought disaster.

The ongoing drought in Morocco has come to require a different agricultural policy that treats the drought as a structural given. Thus, alongside the emergency program mentioned above, which is expected to be accompanied by several additional programs, we need a strategic program that extricates Morocco from this vortex. Formulation of such a program, of course, requires political will and a review of current economic and agricultural options that do not seem viable in the face of Morocco's drought disaster.

Morocco is facing a drought disaster. There is a program to combat the effects of the drought. This program still requires careful examination and a precise definition of its activities. However, Morocco faces an even more dangerous disaster, namely administrative corruption, which removes the positive meaning from all relief and solidarity promotion activities. Attention must be given to this problem. All program activities related to jobs and financing must be monitored strictly at the provincial and central levels to prevent opportunists from influencing efforts to combat the drought disaster.

***Government Hampered by Ongoing Drought**
95AF0076B Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French
27 Apr 95 pp 47, 48

[Article by Bahia Amrani: "Waiting For the Rain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Morocco. Because of the drought, the harvest will be one of the poorest in the last 30 years. It has distorted all of the budgetary forecasts.*

The drought that continues to plague Morocco is greatly hampering government action. Forty days after it was put in place, the new Filali team is coping with major budgetary problems.

The 1995 finance bill anticipated an average agricultural year, which would have made a 4% growth rate possible. In the worst-case scenario, growth was not supposed to be less than 2%. All the forecasts were based on these figures, which were widely considered to be very low. By way of comparison, the growth rate for 1994—a year in which the rainfall and crops were exceptional—exceeded 10%. Now at the end of the first quarter of 1995, the harvest looks as if it will be one of the worst in the past 30 years. With the exception of the eastern region, which has recorded a 15% surplus, the rest of the country is reporting a shortfall between 50 and 65% compared with a normal harvest. The sporadic storms that lashed certain regions in early April may save some of the spring crops but they will have no effect on others. According to Mohamed Kabbaj, the Minister for Finance and Foreign Investment, the grain harvest should not exceed 25 million quintals as compared with 90 million quintals last year.

Kabbaj also believes that the devaluation of certain foreign currencies has produced some business problems for Morocco. This set of economic circumstances has presented the government with a real headache: how can it achieve the objectives in its finance bill and carry out the budget when every trend is currently downwards: GDP (20% of which is accounted for by agriculture) is declining; so are the figures for the balance of trade. On the other hand, the investment rate is rising. The cost of living index, which stood at 133.5 in February 1994, is currently at 142.4 (in absolute terms). Inflation increased by 2% in January 1995 over January 1994 and by 1.6% in February 1995 over the same month last year. On average for these two months, there was a 2.7% variation in 1994. In 1995 it is 6.7%. This is an alarming trend. Despite that, the government is not thinking about revising the finance bill even if, according to the minister, this could have serious socioeconomic consequences. Mohamed Kabbaj believes that balance can be maintained in the budget if the government demon-

strates it is making an imaginative effort. However the maneuvering room has shrunk, with the expenses budget already having been trimmed by the 1995 finance bill. And particularly in the areas of social [programs] and investment.

The government could increase revenues. In particular by using two traditional methods: taxes or foreign debt (whose amount has now risen to \$21 billion). The ways in which this would be carried out, he added, have not yet been defined and will need to be studied by the Bank al-Maghrib and other commercial banks.

The effort will also need to focus on the future in order to accelerate the country's economic development in such a way that basic balances are no longer reliant on harvests. And that is something that is not foreseeable for several years.

Sudan

Judge: Egypt's Actions Violate International Law
EA0607203095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in English 1800 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court judge and chairman of the scientific research department at the judiciary, 'Abd-al-Rahman Sharfi, has described Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's actions against Sudan as international piracy, represented by Egypt's occupation of territories of a neighboring country, the killing [word indistinct] Sudanese citizens in their territory, and the carrying out [of] military provocations against Sudan.

In a press statement to SUNA, Judge Sharfi explained that all these acts perpetrated by the Egyptian regime were considered crimes in accordance with the international law. Sudan can therefore raise the issue in the International Court of Justice, ICJ. He said that President Mubarak is now chased by the Egyptian people, referring to Mubarak's trend toward withdrawing press and trade-union freedoms in Egypt.

Iraq Condemns Egyptian Attacks on Sudan
AB0607183595 Paris AFP in French
1730 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (AFP) — Iraq today condemned Egyptian attacks on Khartoum and Egypt's role in escalating the crisis between it and Sudan.

"The recent crisis between Sudan and Egypt has been caused by the Egyptian regime," Iraq's Labor and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim stated at a

news conference in Khartoum. He said the Iraqi cabinet had recently published a communique denouncing "the Egyptian regime's role in escalating the conflict opposing it to Sudan." Mr. Jasim believes that "in creating this crisis, Egypt is serving the interests of foreign circles."

The Iraqi minister on 4 June had expressed his fears that the conflict between Egypt and Sudan will serve as a pretext for foreign intervention. The current situation has been created artificially to serve as a pretext for foreign intervention, he stated in an interview published by the AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH government daily.

Mr. Jasim arrived in Khartoum today to deliver President Saddam Husayn's message to the Sudanese leader, General 'Umar al-Bashir. Sudan had supported Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraqi Minister of Labor, Social Affairs Visits

Holds Talks With al-Bashir

EA0407162595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has acquainted himself with the latest developments affecting relations between the Republic of Iraq and the UN Security Council, particularly in the context of the blockade imposed on Iraq by Zionism. This took place during a meeting in his office at the Republican Palace at 1200 today with Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the visiting Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs.

In a statement to our reporter, the minister explained that there was no longer any justification for the continuation of the blockade, the Republic of Iraq having fulfilled all its obligations to the Security Council. He drew attention the council's nonobservance of Resolution No. 687, Paragraph 22 of which gives Iraq full freedom to export its oil and other products, and to resume its political, humanitarian, and economic role in the world.

Moreover, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir had confirmed Sudan's firm stance toward Iraq. He had said that the destruction of Iraq's civilian and military potentials constituted the destruction of the Arab forces.

Referring to the recent accusations directed by the president of the Egyptian regime against Sudan, the Iraqi minister said the Iraqi Council of Ministers had issued a clear statement condemning these accusations, regarding them as a fabricated noise in the service of foreign intervention and an attempt to create political (?suspicions) to be exploited by others against Sudan.

Meets With Foreign Minister Taha

JN0607113695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (INA)—Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has urged the UN Security Council to honor its commitments by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for a revocation of the unfair Iraq sanctions, particularly since Iraq has honored its commitments to the United Nations.

During a meeting with [Iraqi] Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Latif Nusayyif Jasim here yesterday, the Sudanese minister added that the U.S. Administration no longer has any excuses or justifications to interpret the relevant UN Security Council resolutions tendenciously to achieve certain political purposes with a view to aggravating the sufferings of the Iraqi people and inflicting the greatest possible harm on them through the maintenance of the acute food and medicine shortages.

The Sudanese minister indicated that Sudan will continue its efforts at international and Arab forums to bring about a revocation of the sanctions, uphold Iraq's just cause, and support Iraq.

The talks dealt with bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues of common interest.

Expresses Hopes for Sanctions Review

JN0607192195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1819 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, has said that the U.S. Administration's stands and insistence on maintaining the blockade against Iraq is not based on the legal interpretation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

In a news conference held here at noon, the minister told correspondents of foreign news agencies and the Sudanese press that the United States has been fabricating pretexts and justifications to prolong the five-year blockade imposed on Iraq despite the calls of the international community and the world public opinion for ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

He expressed that the hope that during its next periodic review, the UN Security Council will take a positive step toward Iraq so as to restore credibility to this international institution whose dealing with the rights of peoples demanding their legitimate rights has been characterized with duality.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim urged the international community, the Arab nation, and honorable writers to say the word

of truth and justice, speak out against the blockade, and demand that Iraq's frozen assets at foreign, Arab, and Islamic banks be released so that Iraq will return to the international community to lead its normal life, play its national and pan-Arab role, and positively contribute to the world march toward peace and security. [passage omitted]

Final Communique Marks End of Chissano's Visit

EA0307160095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1034 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, July 3, (SUNA) — Sudan and Mozambique's bilateral relations were crowned by the Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano's three-day official visit to Sudan this week to participate in the country's celebrations of the 6th anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution. This visit is regarded as a new step toward deepening the brotherly relations between the two countries during which a series of discussions were held between the two sides, reviewing means and ways of promoting and strengthening bilateral relations, besides tackling issues of mutual concern on the African and international arenas. [sentence as received]

Relations between Sudan and Mozambique have overcome all obstacles, and set up a model for brotherly relations because of what they have in common as they [are] characterized by multiplicity of cultures, races and ethnicities. The two countries' views are also identical on such issues as the need to establish a strong state to encounter imperialism plots being woven against several African countries.

President al-Bashir in an address to the nation on the Revolution Day pointed out to the participation of the Mozambican president in the struggle against colonialism, till Mozambique achieved its independence and freedom on the 25th of June 1975, under the leadership of its nationalist leader former President Samora Machel.

When the Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano assumed power many plots were made by the imperialism against his government but he was able to win victory against the rebels who endeavoured to break up the unity of his country but failed. In affirmation of strengthening the relations between the two countries, a joint communique was issued at the end of President Chissano's visit to Sudan which announced formation of a joint ministerial committee under the leadership of the foreign ministers of the two countries alternately. This committee will convene its first meeting in Khartoum, on Nov. 1995 .

The communique also affirmed what the two presidents had agreed upon on the need to finding lasting solutions to the problems and challenges facing the African Continent, relying on the African wisdom and solution, within the context of the OAU values and charter .

Within this framework the communique also commended IGADD's [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative to help solve the conflict in south Sudan under the auspices of the Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. [passage omitted]

Official on Conditions for al-Mahdi's Release

AB0607160395 Paris AFP in English
1448 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 6 (AFP) — Sudan's detained former premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi can earn his freedom by denying reports he sanctioned anti-government activities in Khartoum, a newspaper Thursday [6 July] quoted the assembly's deputy speaker as saying.

Muhammad al-Amin al-Basir, deputy speaker of the Sudanese transitional assembly, told the independent al-Rai al-Akhar the authorities could release al-Mahdi if he dissociated himself from his aides in exile and suggestions he knew of a proposed programme of anti-government activities.

Al-Mahdi, leader of the outlawed Ummah Party, was arrested on May 16 with 13 members of his movement after he criticised Sudan's paramount spiritual leader Sheikh Hassan al-Turabi.

Basir told the newspaper that al-Mahdi's arrest was not for his speech but was instead prompted by comments from 'Umar Nour al-Daim, the Ummah Party deputy leader, to the effect that al-Mahdi knew of and welcomed plans by the opposition in exile to carry out operations against the government in Khartoum.

Basir added: "Al-Mahdi cannot blame the government for his arrest after the revelations of anti-Sudanese conspiracies and after statements by Nour al-Daim that al-Mahdi was aware of those conspiracies and was in contact with his group and was blessing their plans."

Al-Mahdi, a democratically elected premier, was overthrown in June 1989 in a bloodless military coup that brought General 'Umar al-Bashir's Moslem fundamentalist-backed junta to power.

President al-Bashir Opens Space Channel Station*EA3006133095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this morning declared open the Sudanese space channel station at the premises of the national television corporation. His Excellency commended the management of the corporation which registered this achievement without [extra] expense to the government, since it was completed within the budget, and on the basis of self-reliance. He said it represents an achievement reflecting the determination, endurance, and ability of people in the period of the [national] salvation [revolution].

The president of the Republic said the channel will convey to the schemers the actual situation in the country, which has announced independent decisionmaking in politics. At the same time he commended the national radio corporation, which carries the voice of Sudan to all parts of the country, and the world at large. The Voice of Sudan now narrates the greatness of the achievements, and explains them to the outside world. [passage omitted]

The president of the Republic conferred the medal of merit on Engineer al-Tayyib Mustafa, the director of the national television corporation, and (?praised) all the engineers, technicians, and all those who supported this achievement. The ceremony was attended by the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, ministers, federal ministers, and the governor of Khartoum State.

Authorities Foil Heroin Smuggling Operation*EA0607142295 Khartoum SUNA in English 1031 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (SUNA) — The Sudanese drugs control administration has foiled an attempt to smuggle heroin worth one billion pounds into Saudi Arabia, police director general announced. Maj. Gen. Hassan Ahmed Sidiq described the foiled attempt as one of the greatest trafficking operation. [sentence as received] He added in a statement to SUNA that the smugglers were arrested by drugs control police last Sunday [2 July] in a successful operation conducted in collaboration with the general security organ and the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia.

Maj. Gen. Sidiq pointed out that the concerned authorities detained all accused in the case, including a Sudanese, which the Saudi authorities arrested eight other persons in Jeddah in connection with the drugs smuggling operation Sidiq said. [sentence as received] He explained that the accused in Saudi Arabia had received

the drugs and paid huge sums of money to the person who delivered the quantity. The victory came as a result of international cooperation against crime which is considered as that main objective of Interpol, the Sudanese police director said, adding investigations are still under way, in this case.

Correction to TNA Briefed on Hala'ib Incursions*AB3006145095*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "TNA Briefed on Hala'ib Incursions, Egyptian 'Apology,'" published in the 30 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 16: Column one, first paragraph, third sentence, make read: ...police and offered an unacceptable apology...(changing "acceptable" to "unacceptable")

Tunisia**South Africa's de Klerk Arrives on Visit***LD0607183195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This evening South African Deputy President Frederik de Klerk, arrived in Tunisia on a two-day official visit. [passage omitted]

Mr. de Klerk made a statement from the VIP lounge at the airport in which he expressed his happiness to visit Tunisia for the first time. He said: I was honored to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali during his visit to South Africa. He added that his visit to Tunisia would be a special and important opportunity on which he pinned wide hopes for the strengthening of relations between Tunisia and South Africa.

He stressed that his country's belonging to the African continent made it keen on strengthening its relations with all the countries of the continent. He said that his visit was aimed at strengthening rapprochement between the continent's north and south.

The South African deputy president stressed the importance of developing the level of cooperation between the African countries for the benefit of their peoples.

Discusses Economic Cooperation*LD0607221195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui met with South African Deputy President Frederik de Klerk this evening in Qasabah. The important development of the relations between Tunisia and South Africa were reviewed in light of the visits between officials in the two countries, particularly following the

prospects opened by the state visit that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali paid to South Africa last April.

The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening and intensifying relations between the two countries. Both sides noted the conformity of the viewpoints on African issues. [passage omitted]

The two sides expressed hope that an important number of cooperation projects, which Tunisia had suggested, particularly in connection with trade exchange, guaranteeing investments, and regulating the legal frameworks to assist businessmen in the two countries would be signed as soon as possible.

They also expressed their hope that an agreement on opening two sea and air routes between Tunisia and South Africa would be reached soon.

Karoui and de Klerk reviewed the available prospects for laying down a scientific and technological cooperation, particularly in the spheres of agriculture and industry. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Central Bank Governor Views Cooperation

LD0607181795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of international cooperation and investment, met Fuad Hamdi Sha'ban Basisu, governor of the Palestinian Central Bank, and discussed with him economic cooperation between Tunisia and Palestine. The two men also talked about Tunisia's expertise in the promotion of investments and about development in general.

During the meeting, Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi presented to the Palestinian guest, who is on a working visit, a report on the Tunisian experiment in investment. This area is continuously being strengthened thanks to state support, particularly for foreign investment which is an integral part of the national effort [as heard].

The Palestinian guest said he was satisfied with the climate of investments in Tunisia and with the facilities and privileges offered here in this area. He also stressed his country's desire to benefit from the Tunisian experiment in all areas.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian Central Bank would set up its official headquarters in Gaza and that it would open two branches, one in the West Bank and the other in Jericho. He added that the legal framework governing the future Palestinian monetary system would be ready within two weeks. He further said that the currency to be used by this system would be the Jordanian dinar, with the possibility of a Palestinian pound being introduced at a later date.

The Palestinian official said that an agreement had been reached with the Tunisian Central Bank governor on a program of joint cooperation and the use of Tunisian experts specialized in the banking system to help their Palestinian colleagues introduce their system.

There are at present 12 banks in the area under the control of the Palestinian Authority and most of these are commercial banks.

Qatar

Finance Minister Receives PA Official Sha'th

JN0607135095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1145 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 6 Jul (WAKH) — Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance, economy, and trade, met here today with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international co-operation in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA), and his accompanying delegation who are now on a visit to Qatar.

Qatari News Agency said the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and prospects for cooperation in the financial, economic, and trade areas in a manner that will boost overall cooperation between Qatar and the Palestinian National Authority.

Saudi Arabia

Ministry Issues Goals of National Development Plan

LD0507185095 Riyadh SPA in English
1232 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 5, SPA — On the occasion of the Council of Ministers' approval of the sixth national development plan (1415-1420), the Ministry of Planning has issued a statement, expressing the ambitions and requirements of a new phase in Saudi Arabia's developmental process.

The statement said the first five development plans had achieved distinguished accomplishments in all economic and social fields, and had primarily targeted fulfillment of progress as desired by citizens and ensuring fine standard of living and welfare for all citizens, within a comprehensive framework of the lofty teachings and values of Islam.

It said the current situation of the development process reaffirms, by all standards, the strength of national economy in the face of unusual circumstances as well as its ability to eliminate negative aspects.

The statement stressed that the expectations and indicators point to economic stability and reduction in inflation, and consequently the restoration of the investment climate's ability to attract national and foreign investments.

The Council of Ministers' resolution no. 142, dated 19-11-1413 determined the general objectives of the sixth development plan as follows:

- 1- preserving Islamic values and the application and spreading of Islamic shari'ah;
- 2- defending religion and homeland and maintaining security and social stability in the country;

3- training productive working citizens- by providing all means that would carry him to this stage, creating job opportunities for them and rewarding them on the basis of their work;

4- developing manpower and ensuring constant development of their efficiency to meet the requirements of national economy and replacing non-Saudi labour with appropriate Saudi cadres;

5- realizing balanced development in various Saudi provinces;

6- continuing to encourage the private sector's participation in economic and social development process;

7- reducing dependence on the production and export of crude oil as a main source of national revenues;

8- continuing to make real change in the country's economic structure by constant shifting towards diversification of the production base, by concentrating on industry and agriculture in particular;

9- developing mineral resources and encouraging their exploration and investment;

10- concentrating on in-kind development by improving and upgrading the performance of existing public utilities and equipment;

11- completing basic utilities to achieve comprehensive development;

12- enhancing scientific activities, information and cultural movement to the level which makes them keep abreast with the comprehensive development in the kingdom;

13- realizing economic and social integration among Gulf Cooperation Council member states, and cementing the kingdom's relations with Arab, Islamic and friendly countries;

Secondly, priorities and main cores of the sixth development plan:

1- continuing to support and consolidate defence and constant development of the kingdom's self-defence mechanisms, and consolidating citizens' belongings and allegiance;

2- rationalizing government spending and increasing the national economy's dependence on private sector contributions through:

a-raising administrative and productive efficiency at government agencies to reduce government spending without affecting the level of services or their availability;

b- drawing up more policies which encourage private capital to participate in national investments;

c-expanding the use of private sector capital in financing some government projects;

d- studying the feasibility of privatizing some of the state's activities with a commercial nature;

3- taking the necessary measures to overcome obstacles hindering the development and employment of manpower, notably the following:

- a- focusing more on quality in public and university education and training;
- b- focusing more on education and training in specializations which coincide with the requirements of the private sector;
- c- working to increase the universities' ability to absorb more students in the departments which conforms with the needs of development, and boosting the technical education and vocational training institutions' capacity to absorb and later graduate the number and quality of cadres needed by the national economy;
- d- drawing up necessary policies to replace non-Saudi labour with Saudi one;
- e- drawing up necessary policies to encourage the private sector to offer job opportunities to citizens;

4- finding ways to achieve constant expansion of basic utilities in line with the increasing demand for them, and in keeping with the increase in population and housing communities, in view of the principles included in the afore-mentioned priorities.

Thirdly, cores of the sixth development plan:

- 1- economic efficiency;
- 2- consolidating the role of the private sector in national economy;
- 3- developing manpower and increasing their employment.

Fourthly, the preparation and implementation of the sixth plan.

The public sector has played an important role in enhancing the economic and social development process over the duration of the previous five development plans, by paying the costs of development programs and projects. The national economy has matured and come a long way in the diversification of the economic base.

In view of the circumstances in which the plan has been drawn up, the need has emerged for a shift in focus on the goals, policies, procedures and mechanisms which realize economic efficiency, effective management and good performance.

The focus in planning must shift from government spending on programs and projects to boosting economic efficiency, and from direct contribution to projects, to analyzing their outcome and overall impacts.

Therefore, the sixth development plan focuses on policies, procedures and mechanisms which achieve eco-

nomie efficiency, ideal utilization of resources and encouraging the private sector to engage in productive investment and create job opportunities for citizens.

Fifthly, goals of the growth of national economy. In order to consolidate the comprehensive development currently witnessed by the kingdom, achieve and preserve economic growth and stability, the sixth development plan aims to realize the following goals on the level of national economy:

- 1- raising the gross domestic product (GDP) by an annual average of 3.8 percent during the duration of the plan;
- 2- raising the growth of GDP in non-oil sectors by an annual average rate of 3.9 percent, which is double the rate achieved during the fifth plan. This is a positive indication of the economic activities and creation of jobs for Saudis;
- 3- achieving 4.2 percent annual growth in production sectors, and 4.4 percent in services sectors. Production sectors are expected to grow annually by 3.1 percent in agriculture, 9 percent in mining, 4.9 percent in industry, 5.5 percent in electricity, gas and water, 4 percent in construction, 3.9 percent in oil refining and 8.3 percent in petrochemicals;
- 4- achieving annual growth rate of 8.5 percent in the total fixed-capital formation at fixed prices. This will lead to increasing the investment share in the gdp from 15.5 percent at the start of the plan, to approximately 19 percent at the end. Government investments are expected to grow by an average annual rate of 19 percent and private sector investments by 4.9 percent on the basis of fixed prices for 1409/1410 h.
- 5- the plan aims to achieve gradual reduction in the balance of payments deficit and a 12 percent annual growth rate for non-oil exports.

Sixthly, the most important policies to realize the goals of national economic growth:

- 1- policies for development and employment of Saudi manpower:
 - a-drawing up annual detailed plan for saudization of jobs in all government authorities;
 - b-solving problems of employment at government sectors outside major cities;
 - c-redistributing vacant positions in public sector;
 - d-linking government loans and facilities to each private sector company or institution with the company's commitment to its obligations towards saudization;
 - e-setting a percentage of Saudis who could be employed annually by private sector and joint-stock companies;
 - f-restricting the use of foreign labour to skilful and quasi- skilful workers and reducing the demand for low-

production labour in the collective and personal services sectors;

2- policies for achievement of economic efficiency and reduction of assistance;

a-reducing direct and indirect financial assistance by focusing on the reduction of production cost of services offered by government agencies;

b-curbing the growing demand for basic services and public utilities by taking effective administrative measures to rationalize their use;

c-taking effective measures to guarantee coordination of various subsidies from the general framework of economic, social policies and development strategies;

d-taking necessary measures to increase the use of private hospitals and clinics to encourage investment in this sector;

3- policies for boosting private sector role in national economy: The plan calls for studying the feasibility of privatizing some commercial government concerns, provided that the final outcome of such privatization is positive for both the state and the private sector.

It also calls for encouraging the establishment of big joint- stock companies, attracting foreign investments through joint ventures or individual projects with large capital and advanced technology, and expanding the economic offset program to include large civil projects and participate effectively in bringing modern technology and upgrading the efficiency of Saudi cadres.

It points to the importance of utilizing private sector capital to finance many government projects, expanding the dialogue with the private sector, supporting small establishments, exploring small investment opportunities, improving financing conditions, expanding the activities of the Saudi credit bank, applying the incentives system to small business and preparing specialized training programs for small businesses;

4- economic policies:

The plan's financial policies call for realizing the balance between government revenues and expenditures and trying to boost revenues and reduce expenditures, finding an appropriate relation between government current expenses and investments to allow the increase of investment capital, using advanced methods to finance and carry out some public projects by the private sector, and resuming the positive role of the development funds in offering loans to individuals and companies, provided that loans are proportionate to collections.

The plan's monetary policies call for boosting confidence in the national currency, providing cash to meet

the real demands of local economic activities, continuing to organize the work of the banking sector and removing the obstacles hindering the flow of bank credits to the private sector, and encouraging the increase of savings and formation of capital.

The plan's most important projected accomplishments include creating 191,700 new job opportunities and 148,700 vacancies as a result of replacements, in addition to another 319,500 job opportunities which will be created by replacing non-Saudis with the Saudi manpower, which brings the total number of projected job opportunities during the sixth development plan to 659,900.

The statement defined development sectors as natural resources, production sectors, human resources, social development, basic services and utilities. Development support sectors include public service authorities.

The most important accomplishments projected in the natural resources sector are to establish new saline water conversion stations, expand drinking water networks, dig more wells, and reduce the agricultural consumption of water by 2.2 percent annually.

Important projected accomplishments in production sectors include contributing to the realization of food security, increasing and diversifying agricultural production, boosting industrial sector participation in gross domestic product, encouraging small industries, and achieving complete privatization of electric power utilities over the medium and long term.

They also include diversifying agricultural, live stock and fish production, collecting and updating data about agricultural production, achieving a 3.1 percent real annual growth rate of the added value in agricultural sectors, setting up new industrial zones, continuing to realize self-sufficiency in flour production to meet the growing demand and providing fodder in collaboration with private sector plants.

The services sector includes commerce, tourist services, standards and statistics. Its goals are to organize and develop commercial activities, increase the private sector role in commercial activities, upgrade the tourism sector, meet the growing demand of development sectors and improving the competitiveness of national products.

Its projected achievements in the plan include resuming the development of commercial regulations, providing individuals, commercial and government institutions with clear samples of various standards and measurements.

The government credit agencies will extend the following loans during the duration of the plan: institution loans in millions of Saudi rials:

- Saudi Arabian agricultural bank: 3,500
- industrial development fund: 5,300
- real estate development fund: 12,984
- Saudi credit bank: 1,534
- other credit programs: 783
- total: 24,101

Projected accomplishments in the fields of social development include building more hospitals, primary health care centers and raising the efficiency of health care workers.

They also include providing social care for individuals in their natural environment, caring for the family and boosting its cohesion, in addition to continuing to clean and maintain the two holy mosques and the other 35,000 mosques all over the kingdom. The King Fahd complex for printing the holy Koran will issue more than seven million copies annually.

The most important goals of the human resources sector are to continue to modernize public education systems, provide and maintain educational utilities, replace non-saudi manpower with qualified Saudi ones, and secure university education opportunities for willing and efficient citizens.

The total number of male public education students is expected to rise from 1.66 million in 1414/1415 to two million in the last year of the sixth development plan. The same numbers are also projected for female students. Therefore, the total number of students will rise from 3.3 million to 4 million by the end of the plan.

The number of university students of both sexes will also increase from 171,000 in 1414/1415 to about 247,000 in the last year of the plan. The number of technical education students will rise from 28,000 to 57,000 in the same period.

The total number of higher education graduates will grow from 97,000 during the fifth development plan to 167,000 during the sixth development plan.

In the field of basic utilities, the plan aims at expanding transportation services, fully coordinating the efforts of various transportation sectors, expanding the postal services and the communications network, boosting private sector role in the fields of transportation and communications services, and completing drinking water and sanitary drainage services in densely populated areas.

The most important goals in the field of environment include protecting the environment from pollution, realizing durable balanced development on the basis of protecting natural resources, preserving all types of wildlife and ecological diversity as an essential part of Saudi natural resources, achieving continuous balance between population distribution and the environmental absorbing capacity as well as achieving the largest possible food production within the limits of available natural resources without harming non-renewable ones such as water.

Opposition Using Technology To Spread Information

MS0707083895 London THE GUARDIAN in English
7 Jul 95 p 15

[Report by David Hirst: "Fighting The Prophet's War By Keeping The Faxes Flying"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut — Muslim fundamentalists may be traditionalist in their inspiration, but they can be very modern in their devotion to technology. The cassette helped overthrow the Shah; that newer invention the fax could prove the House of Sa'ud's undoing.

The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia makes huge and efficient use of the fax, inviting its informants in the kingdom to send it material on toll-free phones and sending its own back.

Much of what it puts out is "modern" too. It may often be polemical, scurrilous, overhasty in the business of exposing the oppressions, corruptions incompetence and degeneracy of King Fahd's regime, but that, by and large, is fair enough, considering the conditions in which any such exile opposition inevitably has to operate. And it provides perhaps the only systematic insight into a seamier side of the kingdom which the outside world should know about.

The committee is sometimes almost academic in the sobriety of its researches, analyses and presentation. It has, for example, commissioned a corporate-style "country report" on "the political and economic situation" in the kingdom which has very little that is "Islamic" about it, and to which its only contribution is footnotes clarifying or taking issue with some of the conclusions.

It is precisely when they become "Islamic", however, that these faxes, the Arabic-language ones especially, are apt to get disturbingly unmodern in method and content, and their quality of thought to deteriorate.

One feels oneself carried back into another intellectual and emotional era steeped in scriptural pedantry and

medieval scholasticism, in ancient bigotries that furnish ammunition for those who say that "political Islam" is by definition extreme and menacing.

The sympathy one feels for the Saudi reformists' case when they present it, largely for a Western audience, in the universal discourse of the age is dented when, mainly for their own followers one presumes, they present it in a discourse that is much closer to the Prophet's time than our own.

One wonders how the same minds — evidently they are the same minds — can swing so easily between the seventh and 20th centuries.

"The Muslims' relations with others," said a recent such commentary, "must be built on an Islamic basis, and the (Koranic) revelations made clear their position towards the idolaters and infidels. For the Most High said (The Table Spread, verse 51): 'Oh, ye who believe, take not the Jews and the Christians for friends. They are but friends one to another. He among you who taketh them for friends is one of them. God guideth not the evil-doers.' And Ibn-Jarir (a theologian) God's mercy on him, said: 'He who takes unbelievers for friends and helpers, and supports them against Muslims, has nought to do with God, Who casts him out for his apostasy and his descent into unbelief.'

"On the strength of this (and a host of like-minded authorities the committee cites) it is the Muslim state's duty to spread Islam and to support the Call in every place, for it has been repeatedly demonstrated that the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) said: 'I was commanded to fight people until they say that there is no God but God.'..."

"The Muslim scholars agree that a state, group or individual that supports the enemies of Islam against the Muslims with money, men, weapons, espionage or information has denied God."

That is clearly what the House of Sa'ud has done, with its "enslavement" to a US that dictates its foreign, economic, social and military policies and even "decides who its enemies should be, among its Muslim neighbours and in the Peninsula itself".

When the committee came into being in 1993 the "liberal" — that is, the authentically modern and secular-minded — Saudi opposition warned that it had two faces, and that its Islamist one, anti-Western in spirit, was its truer one.

To be sure, it only set up shop in what it must hold to be the alien, inimical abode of "the Christians and Jews" because — finding its own, "apostate" Muslim rulers even worse — it had no choice. Nevertheless,

would it not be Islamically appropriate for the learned gentlemen of the committee, in their midnight faxes, to choose some of the nice things which God instructed his Messenger to say about the two "peoples of the Book?"

Opposition Criticizes Educational 'Funding' in UK
MS2806103195 London CDLR MONITOR in English
27 Jun 95

['Views' No. 001 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Observations on the Saudi funding of educational establishments in the UK and the inability of Muslims to accept what is shown us by Allah!

Some years ago while I was still in Saudi there was a ripple of discontent going around King 'Abd al-'Aziz University. The dissatisfaction was in response to some L750,000 [British pounds] going to Cambridge University for research in schizophrenia. The word on the street was that one or more of the "Royal Family" was suffering from that mental ailment. They were, it was said, laying the foundation for their eventual exile by supporting the charity they most needed. Since then, Al Sa'ud have been very generous in their donations to 'Christian' or humanitarian causes including L75,000 to some poor, slip of a girl who needed an expensive operation, in America, I believe.

The rash has spread, for in the last couple of years Al Sa'ud has put up money for new Departments or Chairs in the UK. The question that must be asked, of course, is why they are so actively supporting Christians in England but refuse to even look at applications for funding of an Islamic (humanitarian) charity which has ample backing from people of note in both the Muslim and non Muslim world, including members of Al Sa'ud themselves.

In recent months there has been a moderate amount of newspaper coverage (not as much as they would hope) on the sponsoring of new academic initiatives. The University of Kent at Canterbury had a new Islamic Department which is chaired by a Sudanese Sufi from al-Rabitah and has one lecturer. SOAS has the money for a new chair which will be filled by Christian, in their Islamic Studies programme. There is doubt, however, as to whether they will accept it because they do not want to be seen as the mouthpiece of Al Sa'ud.

The latest development is the 'SABIC Chair in Best Practise Management' in the Management Centre of the University of Bradford which was recently advertised in THE ECONOMIST (17/6/95). "He/she will have

relevant practical experience of industrial management, business and culture in the Middle East and will be capable of leading programmes in Arabic and English, and preferably also in French".

What is all this leading to? From the locations it seems that Al Sa'ud are trying to influence the feelings about them in the UK. Are they, however, trying to gain points with the British government, Muslims or both. Surely they must realise that most Muslims will see through their transparent plan. The news, on reaching Saudi, will only have a detrimental effect with their population who are not as stupid as the regime seems to think they are. The majority of Saudis know that any Muslim is only custodian of his wealth and that the wealth itself must be put to good use in the propagation of Islam and the relief of fellow Muslims. It is all very well but if Al Sa'ud intend to spread Islam in England, which I really doubt, they should found an Islamic College here which could be used for the training of Muslims and the teaching of Islam to interested Britons and Europeans. There should be no interference from them in the running of the college because, as we know, Islam does not belong to any country but rather, those countries which profess our religion belong to Islam and therefore should be a slave to all its precepts.

The 'Servant' of the Two Holy Mosques (or is it Three now?) would be better placed to answer those questions on Judgement Day if he gave these finances to Muslims. Any Muslim should fear that Day but what about a ruler who has put himself in the position of guiding Muslims and has taken all the responsibility of the guardianship of our religion. This Saudi funded College could be a major salve in the problematic social direction that is being suffered by the Muslim youth in Bradford, to quote just one instance. It would also answer a need which we Muslims have in showing the correct, pure face of Islam in Britain. The media, from their own writings portray it as belonging to a East which is still in the Dark Ages. A lot of this is due to the irrational and irreligious behaviour of so many so-called Islamic countries. Yes I am talking about Islam and we Muslims are struggling here to right that image that has been all but accepted by the average Briton. All these unnecessary conditions imposed upon us by so-called Muslim countries are making life really difficult. Its time those countries thought about Muslims instead of Saudis, Pakistanis, Algerians and Bahrainis.

I'm sure this will be written off as idealistic twaddle but let Al Sa'ud answer that question on the Day of Judgement. I can only follow my duty as a Muslim and point out where there is an intentional, or unintentional prostitution of Allah's word as given by the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [Peace Be

Upon Him] for all Muslims. When will Muslims of the world practise their faith and unite as one family? All they can think of is National Culture and perpetuating their narrow view of Islam. In the early days of Islam it spread was from Morocco in the West to China in the East. Islam is in danger of being asphyxiated by these 'Muslim' governments who are using it to their own ends. It is already characterised as being an Eastern religion from the frequent use of the word West to denote the enemies of Islam. Wake up! and follow Islam's borders, Dar-al-Islam and Dar-al-Jahiliyyah. I am Western and so are many thousands of Muslims who live in the UK, Ireland and America and we have greater freedom to practise our religion than Muslims in Pakistan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Burma and the Philippines!

It is now time to accept a little bit of discrimination for the sake of Allah and remember our fellow Muslims who are incarcerated, tortured and executed in the EAST! Al Sa'ud, Al Sabah, and all you other oil rich potentates including you the Sultan of Brunei, we can't look to you for advice or even as a role model so pass on some of that money and HELP US TO HELP OURSELVES! Look at yourselves! Pray for forgiveness and repent, for that jewel which you have hidden, not only from Muslims but from yourselves is the only real treasure on this Earth.

Yemen

President Salih Cited on Saudi Visit, Gulf Ties

JN0607083595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a press interview granted to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed satisfaction with the good and positive outcome of the visit he has made to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He added that this visit produced an understanding that contributed to a revival of Yemen's ties with neighboring states. He said that the leaders of the two countries now seek to forge the strongest of ties in order to surpass the strong bilateral ties that existed prior to the second Gulf war.

The brother president expressed pleasure with the understanding demonstrated by the fraternal Saudis, headed by King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He added that the two fraternal peoples received the outcome of the visit with great satisfaction. They are almost one people. They are linked to one another by age-old historical relations, blood ties, and the same traditions.

The brother president went on to say: There is no denying that the ties between the two peoples experienced a chill in the past for one reason or another. Nevertheless, the relations between them will remain intact, and so will contacts between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. A new chapter in bilateral ties has been opened, albeit on a stronger and more serious foundation than ever before.

The brother president noted that bilateral contacts are continuing, and that the results of these contacts are good. He added: Saudi and Yemeni citizens have begun to feel the results of this visit, which will be further improved in the future in the interest of the two countries.

The brother president pointed out that a committee currently meeting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will sign agreements on the exchange of goods, movement of people, and transit movement between the two countries.

The brother president added: The custodian of the two holy mosques has welcomed us and demonstrated the greatest possible frankness. We have reciprocated these sentiments, and displayed the fullest possible clarity with regard to all the topics that came under discussion.

With regard to ties with the Gulf states, the brother president said that the ties with the Gulf states are excellent, that contacts with them are continuing, and that his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will influence the ties with the other brothers, not only in the Gulf region, but also in other Arab states.

Salih Ready To Mediate Iraq-Kuwait POW Question

*LD0507152995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1058 GMT 5 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Jul (KUNA) — In an interview published here today, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed readiness to play "an effective role" to settle the tragedy of the Kuwaiti prisoners jailed in Iraqi prisons "if we are asked."

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, the Yemeni president called on Iraq to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions and honor the remaining ones. [passage omitted]

Asked whether Yemen is satisfied with Iraq's commitment to implement all Security Council resolutions, President Salih said: "Yemen has already announced that it supports international legitimacy."

He pointed out: "If there are still Security Council resolutions which Iraq has not abided by, then it should fulfill and adhere to them."

President Salih said that he is optimistic over Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations, which could receive greater understanding when contacts and meetings between the two countries' officials continue. This, he said, will help clear up any misunderstandings that exist here and there. He said that there are some who have benefited from the looseness of relations between Kuwait and Yemen. He added that nonetheless these relations are historical and excellent "and we have the greatest respect for the Kuwaiti people for their contribution to our development and strategic projects."

He added: "The Kuwaiti people are our brothers and we would like to see all the impacts and consequences of the Gulf crisis and war disappear." He pointed out that "resolving the issue of POW's is part of the normalization and restoration of Arab solidarity. The Gulf war chapter should be closed because this war has left a negative impact on each Arab citizen."

The Yemeni president expressed satisfaction over the good and positive outcome of his recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said that he had found understanding among the Saudi officials, chief among whom was King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

He added: "We could say that a tendency has emerged among the leaders of the two countries to establish better relations than those that existed before the outbreak of the second Gulf war." [passage omitted]

He declared: "The same formula governing relations with Saudi Arabia will apply to ties with all the other Gulf states, while the specific characteristics of Saudi-Yemeni relations will be preserved." He said: "My visit to Saudi Arabia will have an impact on our relations with other brothers, not only in the Gulf but in all other Arab countries."

President Salih stated that Yemen does not object to membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council, but "so far we have not applied for membership. However, if the brothers in the Gulf states take the view that this is the normal state for Yemen, then we have no objections." [passage omitted]

The Yemeni president described his country's relations with the superpowers as "good and developed," as are Yemen's relations with others. He said that Yemen has a clear policy toward all Arab and foreign countries "based on reciprocal respect and noninterference in the domestic affairs of others, with the goal of serving common interests."

Turkish Troops Advance Inside Northern Border
*JN0607194695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkey has carried out a fresh incursion into Iraqi territory in the Margasur sector on the pretext of chasing the elements of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party, PKK. The Turkish General Staff announced today that the Turkish Army carried out an operation in northern Iraq which resulted in the death of 57 Kurdish rebels.

The Iraqi News Agency has learned that the Turkish troops that crossed the Iraqi border are estimated at over two brigades supported by aircraft, helicopters, artillery, and special forces. A number of civilians were either killed or injured. Turkish troops kidnapped a number of civilians.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it denied knowledge of the new military operation. However, the Turkish General Staff issued a statement today in which it confirmed the fresh Turkish incursion into the Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi News Agency has learned that the Turkish troops advanced about 15 km inside Iraqi territory and that they are still there.

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Invasion'

*JN0707093495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0915 GMT 7 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA) — Iraq has denounced the fresh Turkish military invasion of Margasur sector and demanded that Ankara immediately evacuate all its forces from Iraq's national soil.

In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said Turkey's insistence on pursuing this policy conflicts with Iraq's desire to promote and bolster relations between the two countries to achieve security and stability in the region and serve the interests and aspirations of their peoples.

Turkish military forces yesterday carried out a fresh invasion 15 km into Iraqi territory in the Margasur sector with more than two brigades, assisted by aircraft, helicopters, artillery, and special forces under the pretext of chasing elements of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party. The invasion resulted in the martyrdom of many Iraqi civilians and caused great damage to the property of our Kurdish people there.

The spokesman said: While reiterating its strong condemnation of the fresh Turkish military invasion, the Government of the Republic of Iraq categorically rejects the pretexts cited by the Turkish Government to

justify its military operations inside Iraqi territory. The new invasion is a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the principles of international law and the UN Charter, as well as good-neighbor relations between the two countries.

The spokesman stressed that the Government of the Republic of Iraq had earlier made it clear to Turkey that facing the dangers resulting from the abnormal situation in northern Iraq can only be through cooperation and direct, constructive dialogue with the central authority in Iraq, and putting an end to the colonialist intervention in the region. The so-called Hammer Force on Turkish territory is one element of this intervention.

KDP Spokesman Appeals for Withdrawal

*JN0607203495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jul 95*

[Statement by "a spokesman of the Kurdistan Democratic Party"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish forces have again invaded the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan. At 1130 [0730 GMT] on 6 July, a Turkish force estimated at two brigades, supported by artillery, warplanes, and helicopters, entered [word indistinct] in the Margasur district of Irbil Governorate. The operation is being carried out 15 km deep in Kurdistan territory.

The Turkish officials claim that the operation is aimed against the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] in the region. However, the affected area is inhabited by Iraqi Kurds who have rebuilt their villages with humanitarian assistance provided by the international community.

The Turkish forces indiscriminately shelled seven villages. They are: (Seboh), (Niruz), (Singari), (Boto), (Singro), (Biroz), and (Bahman). The shelling forced the villagers to abandon their homes and material damage and human losses were sustained. According to preliminary reports, three citizens were injured and two others arrested and their fate is unknown.

The conditions of the civilians in the border areas has become unbearable because of the Turkish military operations on the one hand and because of the movements of the PKK who do not care for the people on the other.

This flagrant Turkish incursion holds the will of the local authorities in contempt and is mounted without any kind of early warning to the [Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP] party leadership. This incursion follows the large-scale Turkish operation launched last March.

We appeal to the Turkish Government to stop its military operations, withdraw its forces, and preserve the safety and security of the civilian population.

[Signed] Spokesman of the Kurdistan Democratic Party

[Dated] 6 July

Our correspondent later learned that inhabitants of 16 villages have been forced to abandon their homes under the pressure of bombing and shelling. They sustained immense material losses. Most of them left all their property and fled. The situation in the area is deteriorating.

Tehran: PUK-KDP Agree To Extend Cease-Fire

LD0307164395 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1602 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — With Iran's mediation efforts, the ceasefire in Iraqi Kurdistan was extended for another month.

A member of Political Bureau of Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Dr. Fouad Maasom and a member of Iraqi Kurdistan Democrat Party (KDP), Sami Abdulrahman [names as received] here Monday announced their agreement with Iran's proposal for extending ceasefire.

The United States is dissatisfied with Tehran's attempts for resuming peace in Iraqi Kurdistan and in order to prevent the successful fulfilment of the attempts, has sent a delegation to the region.

The representatives of PUK and KDP in Tehran announced that they will observe ceasefire regulations for one month starting 15th of July.

PUK Claims KDP Violating Truce

NC0607154195 *(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the latest violation of the temporary truce declared between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], which was recently extended until 15 August, KDP forces on 5 July shelled the forward positions of the PUK's peshmerga troops in [name indistinct]. One peshmerga was slightly wounded as a result.

KDP Delegation Returns From Iran; Visit Detailed

JN0607121195 *(Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic* 1800 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] delegation returned on 4 July from a visit to Iran it made on 24 June. In a statement to the KDP mass media, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the KDP delegation, said the following: Officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran have undertaken mediation efforts between the delegations of the KDP and the Patriotic

Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. As is well known this was the third visit by the two delegations to Tehran.

The Iranian mediation has seriously contributed to brokering a cease-fire and extending it on more than one occasion. This round of talks between our delegation and Iranian officials was useful both with regard to bilateral relations and conveying our viewpoint on the establishment of a just and solid peace in Kurdistan. It was agreed that Iranian mediation efforts will continue.

The insurmountable obstacle to realizing a reasonable and just solution to the crisis is the insistence of the PUK's leadership, including their delegation to Tehran, on violating legitimacy through continuing their occupation of the capital, Irbil, and the Parliament of Kurdistan; paralyzing the regional government; and squandering the overall gains of our people. The essence of their peace plan is made up of these elements. On the other hand, our party's plan calls for ending all extraordinary conditions all over Kurdistan, restoring legitimacy, and setting the ground for the Parliament's resumption of work in a peaceful and normal atmosphere.

Ministry Decries Iran's Contacts With Kurd Leaders

JN0307110995 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*
1020 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman made a statement to INA today in which he commented on a visit by two delegations representing the two agents [Mas'ud] Barzani and [Jalal] Talabani made to Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Government on the pretext of achieving reconciliation between the suspect organizations which are led by these two agents to end fighting among these traitorous cliques. Following is the text of the statement:

Iran's continued contacts with the traitors of the Iraqi Kurds, and the repeated invitations to them to visit Iran, once again prove its determination to deal with these outlaws, something which encourages them to go too far in their criminal actions and in spreading instability in northern Iraq. Such violations do not contribute to putting an end to the state of instability there, in addition to the fact that this is a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and a flagrant interference in its internal affairs.

While strongly denouncing these contacts and the Iranian Government's practices, the Government of the Republic of Iraq stresses that confronting the abnormal situation in northern Iraq cannot be achieved except through constructive cooperation with the Iraqi Government, and that Iran's determination to pursue this approach is not in harmony with the Iranian side's desire

to solve the unresolved issues between the two countries and achieve security and stability in the region. This is in addition to the fact that this reflects negatively on the internal situation in Iran itself.

Progressive Front Assails U.S. 'Intervention' in North

JN0507105495 Baghdad INA in English
0820 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 5, INA — The Progressive Patriotic and National Front has slammed the U.S. flagrant intervention in the north of Iraq to support and protect its agents in the region.

This intervention posed a direct and serious threat to Iraq national sovereignty, the front said.

It denounced dealing of the Iranian regime with the traitors in the north of the country, considering it as an attitude pouring in service of the imperialist-Zionist interests.

During a meeting chaired by its secretary general 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, the front discussed a package of political and organizational topics for vitalizing the action with a view to breaking the unjust embargo.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that Iraq had reciprocated all its commitments once the Security Council should, in return, satisfy its obligations towards Iraq and put para 22 of Resolution 687 into practice immediately. [sentence as received]

He added that patience and innovative work of the Iraqis under leadership of President Saddam Husayn would certainly contribute to speeding up the ending of the unwarranted embargo, since Iraq political moves and steadfastness of its people had their positive effect on positions of the Security Council permanent members and other world states.

Al-Sahhaf Continues United Nations Visit in New York

Accuses Albright of 'Irresponsibility'

JN0607182195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1729 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 6 Jul (INA) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has accused Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, of irresponsibility and departure from diplomatic behavior.

In a press statement distributed by the Iraqi mission at the United Nations today, Thursday, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Albright's statement yesterday against Iraq included a distortion of the facts mentioned

in Special Commission Chairman Ambassador Rolf Ekeus' report to the UN Security Council.

He explained that Albright's statement, which is void of any civilized behavior, included a personal attack on the president of the Republic of Iraq. He said the statement is part of the campaign of hatred that has been launched by Albright against Iraq since she set foot at the United Nations.

He added that Albright's behavior has become very well known at the UN agencies. He said: This behavior will not provoke Iraq into discontinuing its implementation of its obligations in a responsible manner in order to close the biological file within a duration not going beyond August 1995.

In his statement, the foreign minister stressed that Iraq will continue to demand its rights as provided by Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687, particularly the lifting of the embargo on Iraqi exports, including oil.

Meets Nonaligned Ambassadors

JN0707063295 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with the ambassadors of the Non-aligned Movement, who are members of the Security Council, at the United Nations this morning. The Nonaligned Movement states include Oman, Indonesia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Honduras, and Botswana.

Following the meeting, which lasted more than an hour, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told journalists that he had an exchange of views with the ambassadors who are members of the Security Council. He said the purpose of his current visit to the United Nations is to follow up contacts with the Security Council, explain the progress made by Iraq during Ambassador Ekeus's recent visit to Baghdad, and stress the need to close the file of biological research by the end of August so that the Security Council may fulfill its obligations toward Iraq and lift the oil embargo.

Daily: UN Inaction Causing Regime 'Frustration'

MM0707102295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 11

[Article by Mahmud Ma'ruf: "Understandable Iraqi Hard Line"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the Baghdad government to threaten not to cooperate with international inspection teams headed by Rolf Ekeus and hint at creating problems for its neighbors and those causing its people

to starve means that the matter is extremely serious and should not be viewed with contempt.

It is clear that a sense of frustration is beginning to dominate officials and decisionmakers in Iraq. It has resulted from the international failure to respond to all the goodwill measures represented in the implementation of most of the UN Security Council resolutions and the full cooperation with numerous inspection teams despite their numerous demands.

The Iraqis had expected an imminent end to their long night. They had thought that Ekeus' reports on their full cooperation with his teams, which mercilessly destroyed their weapons of destruction and their nuclear programs, would lead to the lifting of sanctions. Especially as they agreed to all the demands, including permanent observation of their military factories. But all these expectations were dashed, and it became clear to them that, as far as the Americans are concerned, the outcome is the same whether or not they implement the international resolutions.

The question being asked is: "Were the Iraqis wrong to implement the UN resolutions and thus allow the mass-destruction weapons they had — such as the Scud missiles and the chemical and biological weapons — to be destroyed?"

The answer to the question is definitely: No. Compliance with resolutions that have international legitimacy — despite their unfairness and the illogicality of many of them — was the only and the ideal option for Iraq in order to thwart a huge conspiracy aimed at more than just partitioning and dismembering it. In addition, compliance with international wishes gave Iraq the chance to rebuild a political, social, and material structure and so split the international coalition against it.

Had Iraq not complied with the international resolutions, France, Russia, and China would not have adopted that solid position against the embargo. Nor would Turkish figures such as the foreign minister have had the courage to adopt their current position of calling openly for the freeing of trade channels with Iraq.

It has become clear that the Clinton administration, for domestic reasons, does not want to lift the sanctions on Iraq. Because any step in this connection would cause it to lose some votes, and it is already in a weak position and struggling to restore its credibility and people's confidence in it and its promises.

The Clinton administration has failed at the domestic level because it has not fulfilled the promises of economic prosperity that took it to the White House. It failed at the foreign level when it suffered a big

defeat in Somalia, and it is moving toward another one in Haiti. So it does not find itself in the position of being able to lift the Iraq embargo, which has proved to be a goose that lays contracts and tempting deals for U.S. industry and an effective tool for blackmailing some Gulf regimes and governments.

Sadly, this lax U.S. position will lead to a catastrophe in the future if it continues. The Iraqi people, whose population is near 20 million, are dying of starvation, and the government would not have reduced subsidized food shares if it had not been for the critical situation. A starving man cannot be blamed if he brandishes his sword at people or if he violates legal boundaries to feed his children. The state cannot cut off everyone's hands as punishment for theft.

When the Iraqi president warns that Iraqis' patience is running out and says that he "will open all the storehouses in the universe [makhazin al-kawn] for them, because we will not accept that our people should die of starvation," these statements entail multiple meanings. The storehouses of the universe that he hints at are not far from the Iraqis. They are a stone's throw away, trenches and electronic fences will not deter them, and U.S. warships will not be able to prevent anything if the deluge begins.

Cramming lions into the cage of an embargo is painful and makes their starvation all the more painful. If they break loose, they will be all the more dangerous. We hope that the region will not see such a tragic outcome.

Professor Calls Regime's UN Policy 'Foolish'

95LH0199A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jun 95 p 17

[Article by Hasan al-Chalabi, professor of international law and chairman of the Iraqi National Congress' Constitutional Committee]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people have not known a regime that dares to maneuver, deceive, and lie as the regime of Saddam Husayn. When it invaded Iranian territory on 22 September 1980, Saddam's regime falsely announced and complained that the Iranian forces have crossed the Iraqi border. It continued this line of lies throughout its war against Iran, which lasted eight years. The regime has persisted with this claim until today, although former UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar blamed the Baghdad regime for starting the war, according to the sixth paragraph of UN Security Council's resolution No. 589.

When it invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, Saddam's regime told the world that it was only responding to the call of the people in Kuwait and Iraq to return the branch

to the origin. The regime said it wanted to distribute the Arab wealth among the people to end injustice and oppression and achieve equality between rich and poor in the Arab nation. When it suffered a heavy defeat in the war, it called this defeat "the mother of all battles" to underline the victory it had achieved against the alliance of the East and West against it.

Furthermore, Saddam's regime has termed the tragic situation of oppression, terror, hunger, poverty, disease, and death, in which the people exist, a devotion and love for their historic leadership and a sincere expression of their loyalty to their great leader. [Foreign Minister] Al-Sahhaf's interview published in AL-HAYAH on 20 May added nothing to what the regime has been saying. The minister's remarks were full of mistakes, forgery, and fabrications, suggesting that Iraq, under the regime of his master, is very close to achieving victory and returning to its past glory and greatness.

The minister was told in this interview that "your regime acts as if it was the victor in the war and not under international pressure and sanctions, which are causing many hardships to your people. The sanctions are imposed on Iraq, and the people are suffering." He replied: "This is not true. Whoever says something like this does not know what is going on. The sanctions were imposed on Iraq because we entered Kuwait, but when that situation ended, they continued the sanctions for political reasons that have nothing to do with the issue of Kuwait. As for the saying that we behave like victors, we have heard this many times. You must understand that the minds of the Iraqi people are clear. They know what is happening. They will not be deceived by the current ploys and policies. Iraq has a policy, and its capabilities are known. It will continue to safeguard its policy and resources. What is wrong with that? What do they want?"

Thus, very simply, al-Sahhaf calls the invasion of Kuwait, that was tantamount to a tremor in the area, a mere entry into Kuwait. He says the aggression against Kuwait, the destruction and catastrophes it has caused to it, the unprecedented disintegration and weakness it has caused to the Arabs, and the tragedies, disasters, and pain it has caused to Iraq has ended. He describes the frustration, oppression, terror, poverty, and unclear future, which Saddam's regime has bequeathed to the Iraqi people, with a clear mind and awareness of what is happening and says that victory is coming, without a doubt.

The two wars that broke out in the area as a result of the invasion of Kuwait and Iran are undoubtedly among the biggest wars and regional conflicts that have taken place since World War II. They should have been enough to

end Saddam's regime, or the international community should have helped the Iraqi people to execute the rule of law against this regime and those involved in it.

Al-Sahhaf's remarks regarding the regime's mass destruction weapons also involved fraud and the falsification of facts and UN resolutions. He said that Iraq has destroyed all the mass destruction weapons in its possession and thus has implemented Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, and therefore the Council must lift the ban on the export of Iraqi oil. This statement raises serious questions. Has Saddam's regime really implemented the provisions of Paragraph 22 of the resolution? Is the implementation enough to lift the ban on the export of Iraqi oil?

We will let the facts answer this serious question. The facts show that as soon as the mass destruction weapons' inspection committee in Iraq closed one file on these weapons, it sooner or later was forced to reopen it because it discovered that the regime had deceived it. As soon as the nuclear weapons' file was closed, the committee and the International Nuclear Energy Commission received reliable and important information from experts who worked in the nuclear weapons' field that the information the Baghdad regime gave them was incorrect. This has prompted Saddam to pursue these experts and liquidate them, as happened to Mu'ayyad al-Janabi in Amman last year and Khadr Hamzah in Athens this year.

What applies in the case of the nuclear weapons' file could apply to the biological and chemical weapons' file. Information received by the inspection committee indicated the existence of dozens of tons of substances from which Iraq can produce germ and chemical weapons that can destroy everything in Iraq and the area. This has prompted [Chairman of the UN Special Commission] Ekeus to reopen these two files. We think that Saddam, by his nuclear and non-nuclear intentions and ambitions, will not allow any one of the mass destruction weapons' files to be closed for long. Therefore, no honest and sincere implementation of Paragraph 22 of UN Resolution 687 can take place as long as Saddam and his regime are in power.

Al-Sahhaf made another attempt to misinterpret the provisions of Paragraph 22 of the UN resolution when he limited the lifting of the embargo on oil to the implementation of this paragraph. The implementation of all the UN resolutions as a condition for lifting the embargo is no longer a demand only supported by the United States and Britain. This condition is contained in UN Security Council Resolution 986. The resolution's preamble says that the UN Security Council, referring to its previous relevant resolutions,

out of concern for the serious nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi people, in view of the danger of increased deterioration in this situation, and convinced of the need to provide the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people as a temporary measure until Iraq fulfills the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, can then consider lifting the sanctions against Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf's disregard of the provisions of the UN resolutions does not cancel the principle of this judgment, which Iraq must implement to have the sanctions lifted or eased. It went beyond that to what is more important and serious — the famous Resolution No. 688, which calls on Saddam's regime to end its oppression of the people and respect their human and political rights in preparation for establishing democracy in Iraq. No other resolution annoys and angers Saddam and his henchmen more than this one. They can't even talk about it because it is the only resolution able, if implemented honestly, to save Iraq and the Iraqis from the terrifying grip of Saddam's regime.

Saddam's insistence on hurting, oppressing, and increasing the poverty, hunger, and sickness of the Iraqi people is manifested in his unsympathetic rejection of UN Security Council Resolutions 706, 712, and 987 to ease the people's suffering by allowing the regime to export a quantity of oil to buy food and medicine. Al-Sahhaf tried to maneuver to hide the real reasons that prompted his master to reject them. He complained about the resolutions' effects on Iraq's sovereignty and independence, insisting that Iraq will not accept any violation of this sovereignty and independence. However, he ignored what everyone knows about the flagrant concessions the regime has made concerning the most important components of Iraqi sovereignty and independence. Based on the UN resolutions it has accepted, the regime cannot be independent in managing the country's military affairs, moving army units, and preventing UN inspectors from even visiting the palaces it occupies. This proves that the real reason Saddam rejected the humanitarian UN resolutions does not lie in the issue of sovereignty in as much as in his keenness to regain Iraq's resources and its billions of dollars so he can spend them to achieve his foolish goals and policies and his sick dreams.

Al-Sahhaf could not avoid admitting that the regime's policy has reached an impasse. When he was faced with the possibility that the sanctions would be maintained, he indicated that Iraq would resort to the Security Council. When he was told that the Council's resolutions are an expression of the political will of its members, he said we will cross that bridge when we come to it. This shows that the regime does not have any plan or policy to face future international developments. When the interview dealt with a hot summer that Iraq could face

in the coming months, he said these are agitations. A few hours after the minister's statement, we heard reports about bloody incidents in al-Ramadi and the statements of Taha al-Jazrawi, Saddam's deputy, about the possibility of suspending cooperation with the United Nations unless Iraq receives, within a reasonable time, something in return for its implementation of the UN resolutions.

Al-Sahhaf's interview contained no indication of the regime's readiness to abandon its wrong and foolish policy in dealing with the international community, the United Nations, and the Security Council. Iraq has reaped nothing from this policy but disasters and tragedies. We find that the lifting or easing of the sanctions has always been contingent on additional harsh conditions made to Saddam's regime, such as the condition of proving its peaceful intentions contained in Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687 and Resolution 949, about which al-Sahhaf said it was "agitation and hysteria."

Prospects for 'Normalization' With U.S. Viewed

JN0607104595 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 2 Jul 95 pp 1, 3

[Part II of "Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "What Is Happening in the Arabian Gulf and Egypt Now That There Are Greater Prospects for Lifting the Iraq Embargo?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and its friends among the Arab rulers are aware of a fact that causes concern; namely, that the original value of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait lies in their wealth and oil. Without these, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are, in the eyes of the United States, nothing more than an absolute void. Should this void be filled, it can only have something that will be the object of extreme U.S. contempt. The United States will not even refer to this void out of respect for public taste. It is enough here to refer to two movies, "Harem" and "Death of a Princess," in which the United States openly derides the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

It is now clear to everybody, especially to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, that the oil money is now deposited in U.S. banks and will certainly not be recovered. The United States has issued legislation to guarantee that the money will not be transferred to Saudi Arabia or elsewhere. Therefore, the United States is no longer worried about petrodollars. This is a source of concern for the Arabs who have these petrodollars. This explains the reason for the deficit in the trade budget of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait since 1991 and the deterioration of their economic power despite the fact that they have more than \$700 billion in U.S. banks. This has led to the

decline of their political influence, even in their largest fort, which is Egypt. Hence, most of those who are paid by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have recently stood up to revile them, along with the Egyptian nationalists who resisted Saudi-Kuwaiti temptation.

The aggression against Iraq and continuing to hand out bribes to those who play a role in maintaining the embargo drove Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the brink of bankruptcy. In addition, Saudi Arabia's maximum oil production capacity, which totals 8 million barrels per day, is no longer enough to meet increasing demand. So what will happen to Saudi Arabia when the Iraq embargo is lifted and the Saudi quota is reduced? The Saudi quota was doubled after Iraq was prevented from exporting its oil.

No one is unaware that Iraq's return will lead to a decrease in Saudi production. This will reduce the Saudi budget, and the severe crisis in Saudi Arabia will become more complicated. This situation will result in the decline of the Saudi trade value. Thus, it is clear that America's unilateral pursuance of its embargo against Iraq will result in major upheavals in the region against the United States and its satellites and in favor of Iraq and those who trade with it.

However, if we assume that the United States can curb its current irrational tendencies in dealing with Iraq and normalize its relations with it — something that cannot be ruled out in the long run — then its first duty should be finding a formula to end the sharp contradiction between its relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the one hand, and Iraq on the other. Indeed, the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued hostility toward the people of Iraq and their instigation and financial support aimed at continuing the embargo will make it hard for any Iraqi to forget these crimes. There is a victim of the embargo in every Iraqi house. Moreover, every Iraqi family holds the United States and the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Egypt responsible for this, and demands that the murderers and criminals be punished.

From this premise, the following question, which is one of the most serious questions, has begun to surface:

On the level of future trade and political relations, will the United States choose the corrupt and isolated rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who have been financially and economically milked, and who have become a political burden to the United States? Or will it choose youthful and strong Iraq, which is full of life, experience, ability, and wealth in all fields, not only in the oil field, and with which one cannot escape dealing in its capacity as the most important center in the Arab homeland and the neighboring regions?

Any rational U.S. view that wants to preserve and promote the United States' legitimate interests will certainly choose to deal with Iraq and instruct the CIA director to take the necessary measures to undo the knot between Iraq and the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Undoing the knot is already known.

Those who remained steadfast are the Iraqi strugglers, who made miracles in the field of political steadfastness and reconstruction. They are the force that has a special weight and large influence. Therefore, the process of U.S. normalization with Iraq will be coupled with a reconsideration of the existence of the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This is a fact and not a possibility because modern history has proved more than once that the United States sells its friends to its enemies when those enemies remain steadfast and prove that they cannot be defeated.

Hence, in any of the two U.S. choices — whether it is to continue the embargo unilaterally or to normalize relations with Iraq — the scapegoat will inevitably be the Arab rulers who supported the United States in striking at Iraq and torturing its people. The United States is well aware of this fact. Therefore, we noticed, especially during the past few months, some new signs that must be worrying to those rulers.

Regarding Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, we see the United States and Europe openly embracing and encouraging the opposition and opening the door of criticism against their rulers. After a period of silence, which began in 1990, the Western media is publishing extensive reports on the political and economic crisis in Saudi Arabia and its violation of human rights and abuse of democracy. Indeed, U.S. sources do not hesitate to announce the imminent downfall of change of these two regimes for their corruption, failure, and being a heavy burden impeding the United States' movement in the region while its rivals are making headway!

As for Egypt, the regime's grip there is slipping, and the main U.S. papers are forced to hold Mr. Hosni Mubarak responsible for this and to wage extensive campaigns against him under the human rights and democracy title. The NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST even call for the need to topple him. Not content with this, other U.S. quarters accuse Mr. Mubarak of financial corruption by accusing his son. The attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa takes place in the midst of strong signs that the United States has decided to do without his services. Personally, he sensed that the Ethiopian Government was involved in the attempt to assassinate him when he said that he was surprised that all his guards were placed in one car.

If we add to all this the fact that the Zionist entity and the U.S. intelligence services supply weapons to Egyptian groups which are outside the regime, we can surmise that Mubarak's days are numbered, and that the United States is the most important party that wants to get rid of him.

Recent events in Egypt are just additional signs that the time to dispose of Mubarak is close and that the United States is the one that will carry this out because it fears that the mujahidin and the Arab nationalists will seize power in Egypt after the regime has proved its failure and has shown that it is completely isolated from the people.

From this premise, it is only natural to pose the following questions that were previously raised: What will happen when the embargo on Iraq is lifted? How will Arab leaders deal with an Iraq whom they have wounded and whose people they have tortured, and after participating in killing one million of its citizens? Will Saudi Arabia and Kuwait succeed in tempting the United States not to be dragged behind the world trend of normalization of relations with Iraq although they are no longer capable of offering bribes or substitute prices?

The ideas that were mentioned earlier provide a very clear panoramic picture. He who is avoiding this picture in order to avoid the truth must think of the future in a realistic way and must force himself to see the picture of the near future. Iraq will undoubtedly return, amid the joyous songs of hundreds of millions of Arab and Muslim women and the prayer of the Muslim mujahidin, who were reduced to tears when they saw the armies of Abu-Rughal (in Arab tradition, a traitor who led the Abyssinian Armies to Mecca in the pre-Islam era) desecrating the sacred places. Iraq's return within months is now an unavoidable "fate."

Also, those who are still hostage to their hatred against the Iraqi people must notice that the heart of the future regional panorama is Iraq and no other party. This is especially the case after Iraq has passed all the impossible tests, and is defying the impossible and opening several roads to a bright future for all the Iraqis and Arabs. When they see that, they will realize that they have no future or life without Iraq's approval and the blessing of its people. They will also see the United States, the biggest broker in history, selling them cheaply and starting to knock on Iraq's doors because the only God the United States knows is the dollar.

What we hope from all our bleeding hearts is that those who have harmed Iraq do not waste this opportunity. This is so because we will not accept their repentance after their seeing with their own eyes how the current U.S. President, Bill Clinton will bow to the swords of

jihad that will be brandished by Saddam Husayn in the celebrations square in Baghdad.

Yes, rest assured that Bill Clinton will bow to the greatness of the Iraqis, and he will shake hands with Saddam Husayn, the son of great Iraq, after he is forced to come to Baghdad at the instructions of his masters, the owners of the big companies. Then, there will be no place for pardon, and you will be forced to carry only the Samsonite briefcases. You will leave Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Las Vegas which welcomes all the despots and agents who are expelled by their people and become dancers, gamblers, and brokers in this city of gambling. Do you know General (Kaw Ky)? If you do not know who he is because you were busy with what is warm and tender you should know that he was an air force pilot to whom the United States handed power in South Vietnam. However, he was unable to stand in the face of the Vietnamese people's struggle and escaped to the United States where he became a dancer and broker in Las Vegas.

What is really saddening is that Fahd, Sultan, Jabir, and Husni Mubarak will not fit as good dancers. So, they cannot perform in Las Vegas. They are only fit to work in a certain area, which we will not identify. However, the quick-witted only needs a hint.

The developments currently taking place in the Arabian Gulf and Egypt, which are only the tip of the iceberg, are multifaceted preparations for the stage of Iraq's return, the fall of the last strongholds of U.S. hegemony in the region, and the start of a new kind of conflict in the region and the world at large. In this stage, the United States will not be the major player, but merely a player among others.

Everybody is making preparations for this stage; and anticipation is the hallmark of these preparations. Only sensible and intelligent people have realized and will realize that regional stability and security are impossible to achieve in the absence of normal ties with Iraq, which will return to the regional and international scene carrying good intentions toward all brothers and neighbors despite the malice and treachery of some of them. Iraq is doing so because its actions are driven by a historical perspective that transcends pain and vindictiveness and seeks to create real opportunities for cooperation through forgiveness, clemency, and letting bygones be bygones. This was Iraq's destiny in the past, and so it will remain at present and in the future.

An absent-minded "amir" may wonder whether the Iraq sanctions can be lifted while the U.S. embargo remains in place. Our answer is in the affirmative. For the follies of the current U.S. rulers, who inhale the smoke of their cocaine-filled pipes, may push them to fight the entire

world even if the price is their isolation. This is the choice of the people who were raised on the periphery of civilization and spent their youth in pubs. It goes without saying that this choice will be the worst folly the United States could commit. This is because such conduct will be the coup de grace delivered against the openness to the world started in the aftermath of World War II. This would also usher in U.S. isolationism, whose specter has begun to make inroads into the alleyways and labyrinths of the brains of U.S. policymakers. This state of affairs has frequently driven Clinton crazy.

Will Fahd, Jabir, and Husni understand what I have written? Certainly, each of them will summon his advisers and demand an explanation. Nonetheless, the explanations provided will be prepared by men handpicked by the U.S. intelligence service. The explanations they will receive will be comforting and pacifying. However, these explanations will blind them to the facts, and set the stage for the emergence of new faces from among the ruling dynasties or outside them. These new faces will kick with their feet those who have become burdens and dead bodies that cannot be accepted by the lowliest places in Las Vegas.

Then, where will those who reject Iraq's sincere advice go? This question is to be added to other intense and tumultuous questions.

Study Alleges U.S. Used Chemical Weapons in Gulf War

JN0207141895 Baghdad INA in English
0845 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 2, INA — A recent study has stressed that the US and its allies in the war against Iraq in 1991, had used lethal chemical toxic weapons against Iraq.

The study which was submitted to a symposium on "post-war environmental problems in Iraq" held in Baghdad in December 1994, said that there are good physical and biological evidence from the attacked area that the US and allies used chemical weapons.

Samples of vegetation, water, soil, blood and urine proved that samples were analyzed and found to contain abnormally high levels of potent mycotoxins, called "trichothecene" poisonous toxic not indigenous to the region and which are highly toxic to animals.

These toxics are combinations of T-2, HT-2, (DAS) diacetoxyscripenol, vomitoxin (don) and zearalenone, in high concentrating.

The toxics do not occur naturally on the substrates described above and they produce symptoms in human that could not be correlated with those produce by

known or traditionally recognized chemical warfare agents or combinations, the study said.

Trichothecene toxics are among the persistent environmental contaminates.

Toxicoses produce a typical set of toxicological responses in humans, including vomiting, tachycardia, diarrhea, hemorrhaging, edema and skin irritation and lesions very similar to these induced by radiation and chemicals, dermal necrosis, breathing difficulties, nausea dizziness destruction of haematopoietic (blood forming tissue) meningeal hemorrhage of the brain, nervous disorders, coma inhibition of protein synthesis, immune response and death.

The finding of these toxics in the analyzed samples and their absence in background samples from areas not exposed to bombings and the description of the interviewer to yellow stinking smoke appeared after rocket bombardment and the toxicosis described above strongly implicates their use as warfare agents.

Moreover, the finding of T-2 and HT-2 toxic in the blood urine of some victims of these attacks unequivocal proof of their use as weapons against Iraq, and provide a proof of the use of trichothecenes as non-conventional warfare agents.

All victims suffered from chemical attack develop stomach and chest pains and vomiting with blood developed, other symptoms included headache, shortness of breath, dizziness, eye irritation, vision disturbances rash and rush blisters.

Both T-2 and HT-2 toxics were found in blood samples obtained from victims complained of vomiting, fever, headache, backaches, swollen eyes and chest pain.

The US and allies have ratified the agreement and all the relevant countries including US are parties to the biological convention.

Hundreds of people are dying every day as a direct result of this continuing violation of humanitarian law and crime against humanity.

Iraqi 'Hawks' in Control, Favor Violence

95AA0198A London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic
15 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: 'Iraq and Samson's Only Option']

[FBIS Translated Text] There are mounting signs coming from Baghdad these days, reflecting an unease over the sanctions continuing and a desire to stop dealing compliantly with the international inspection teams led by Rolf Ekeus. Iraqi newspapers have continued both their criticisms of him and their veiled threats of harsh

revenge against the Arab countries that support the sanctions and are working to extend them, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

No one disputes the fact that conditions in Iraq are getting worse, that the suffering there has reached unbearable limits, or that it is impossible to deal much longer with the UN decision to impose an embargo on a compliant and positive basis; the disagreement is over the manner of emerging from this state of crisis and the steps the Iraqi Government can take in the coming months.

The "realist" school of thought believes that patience is Iraq's only option and that the government in Baghdad must receive Ekeus and cooperate with his requests, no matter how impossible they are, because slamming the door in his face is what America wants; it would be used to justify the policy of Madeleine Albright, Washington's delegate to the Security Council, who has adopted the theory of perpetuating the embargo. The "brains" of this school say that the use of the "Serbian option"—expelling or even detaining the UN envoys—would cost Iraq the support of countries such as China, Russia, and France at the UN. These are the countries that are applying strong pressure these days for the sanctions to be lifted.

The "hawks" school of thought inside Iraq and abroad believes cooperation with Ekeus was a mistake from the beginning because the man is, under UN cover, implementing an American plot aimed at destroying Iraq gradually, breaking its people psychologically, and stripping it of all its weapons, preparatory to toppling the ruling regime. They say Ekeus' demands will never end and cite, in this regard, the amendments and interpretations added to the punitive resolutions following every Iraqi concession. They conclude that it is necessary to adopt stern, hard-line policies with the UN and their Gulf neighbors, and a return to violence as a means of protest and harassment.

It appears that the hard-line school's point of view is now clearly prevailing in Baghdad, especially following the discovery of coup attempts in the army and the execution of those implicated in them. You can add to that the fact that the current American Administration has embarked on its presidential election campaign, which brings about a political "winter hibernation" and a lack of decision making on any major foreign policy issues. There is no bigger decision than lifting the sanctions on Iraq, which would mean depriving America of its only foreign policy triumph.

While the options of the realist school and its supporters are few, clear, and not burdensome, involving no risk in accepting the continuance of the present situation,

the hawks' options are limited though dire. The Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH sent a clear message the day before yesterday when it warned the Gulf states about the negativism of their policies, saying, "persisting in the course of deliberate harm to Iraq is a time bomb that is growing bigger as the days pass, with the growing waves of hatred of the Iraqis."

There are those, and we are among them, who do not rule out the Iraqi leadership's embarking on a new adventure. Iraq's new adventure to break the embargo and to send a reminder of its dangers could be peaceful and studied. What would countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait do if they woke up to waves of immigrants, in boats and over the land borders, deluging them from Iraq? Would they open fire on them, put them in camps for temporary shelter, or establish a state within a state for them?

Iraq, to put it very concisely, still has options—destructive options. Continuing to press it into a corner, a corner of hunger, disease, humiliation, and internal subversion, by careerists at the Central Intelligence Agency and its agents, could lead them to resort to the option of bringing down the temple on everyone. No one would blame Iraq for that. It has done all it was asked to do by the United Nations, cleared its conscience in this regard, and exhausted all means of flexibility.

Complaints Against Government Agencies Discussed

95LH0173A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic
24 May 95 pp 18, 19

[Article by Siham al-Shujayri: "Minister and Director Before Administrative Judiciary Court; Complaints Against Ministers of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Health"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What can the citizen do if he is done an injustice by a government agency? On what door should he knock, and what path should he follow to have the injustice removed?

In some countries, they have devised a complaints bureau. In others, they have set up special courts. There are also those who have turned parliaments into ears listening to such complaints.

In Iraq, a court has been formed for the purpose. It is called the Administrative Judiciary Court, and it examines complaints submitted by citizens against the "administration." Here, administration means all state departments and agencies, without exception. The complaint may be against a general director or a minister. The plaintiff and the defendant litigate before

a judiciary council so it will issue its decision, which is obeyed by everybody because it is derived from the law and from the spirit of justice.

ALIF BA' has attended several sessions of this court and has recorded the course of some cases in which citizens pleaded against agencies.

A female citizen has complained against the minister of agriculture for his refusal to approve a contract involving a plot of land that she cultivates. The court examined all evidence the citizen presented and postponed its decision until the citizen's attorney submits an explanatory note on the case.

Another case was filed by a citizen against the minister of irrigation (and his office?) in connection with ownership of the house that the citizen inhabits.

Another female citizen complained against general director of the Land Registry Office regarding the ownership of a plot of land. The court has also examined the complaint of a citizen against the minister of labor and social affairs because the citizen left his work at the Grownups Rehabilitation Department, which considered him a resigned employee. The court decided to refer this case to the General Disciplinary Council because it emanates from the civil service law.

A citizen complained against the minister of health (and his office?) because of the closure of his dental clinic. The clinic was closed because the citizen resigned from his teaching job. The case has been postponed until the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is contacted, considering that the dentist owning the clinic is an employee of this ministry, not of the Ministry of Health.

Another citizen complained against Baghdad's mayor in connection with the lease contract involving craftsmen who rent property from Baghdad Municipality. The mayor has tried to cancel his lease. The court examined the case and asked the citizen's attorney to submit an explanatory note to explain some decisions.

A citizen filed a complaint with the court against the Cooperative Association managing the Zayyunah Housing Complex in order to keep his rented shop, which the complex management decided to lease in a public auction. The court decided that examination of the validity of administrative decrees and decisions made by government and public-sector employees and agencies falls within the jurisdiction of al-Karradah Lower Court. Therefore, the administrative court decided to refer the case to this court. As a result, the citizen has been able to regain his right through this case.

Wisam Muz'il, a judiciary aide, has told me that most cases presented to the court are postponed because of a request for an explanatory note on the case. However, numerous other cases are decided and referred to the courts concerned to follow up on them after the administrative court makes its decision, which concerns validity of the administrative decrees and decisions issued by government and public-sector employees and agencies. These cases are referred because they fall within the jurisdiction of Baghdad's civil courts.

Supremacy of the Law

When was Iraq's Administrative Judiciary Court formed? What are its powers and is it an extension of a previous experiment?

We addressed this question to magistrate Midhat al-Mahmud, a counselor at the State Consultative Council and president of the Administrative Judiciary Court, who answered:

"A modern state is founded on the principle of supremacy of the law. Supremacy of the law means that the actions and conduct of all public law persons and bodies must be compatible with the legal principles in force in the state. In administrative law jurisprudence, public law persons mean public agencies and institutions given legal status by the law. This concept includes cabinet ministries in their administrative capacity, governorates, municipalities, and other public law persons. Any action or decision made by these legal persons in violation of the legal rules in force is considered a violation of the law, regardless of whether the action or decision is the result of a faulty application of the law or of a faulty interpretation of the law. If the decision or action violates the rules of job jurisdiction or if it reflects the arbitrary use of a right, then the party against whom the action or decision is made, be he a natural or a legal person, must be protected. This protection is accorded by giving the person concerned the right to appeal the decision or action before a judiciary authority in accordance with procedures charted by the law. Until 11 December 1989, Iraq's lower courts had the jurisdiction to consider appeals submitted in connection with decisions or actions emanating from public law persons. After that date (the date on which law No. 106 of 1989 was published, amending State Consultative Council law No. 65 of 1979, which created the Administrative Judiciary Court as a State Consultative Council unit), the Administrative Judiciary Court specialized in examining appeals submitted in connection with the validity of administrative decrees and decisions issued by government and public-sector employees and agencies. The law excluded from the court's jurisdiction decrees and decisions connected

with sovereignty acts or decrees and decisions made in implementation of presidential directives. If the court finds that a contested decision or action is within its jurisdiction; that it violates the laws, rules, or regulations; that it erred in applying or interpreting the laws; that it has been issued in violation of jurisdiction; or that it is sound in form but reflects the misuse or arbitrary use of power, then it abolishes the decision or action and considers it null and void, ordering the payment of reparations to the damaged party, if this party demands it. An Administrative Judiciary Court decision can be appealed before the General Assembly of the State Consultative Council."

[Shujayri] What is your evaluation of Iraq's administrative judiciary experiment?

[Al-Mahmud] The need for the ideal organization of the judiciary and for entrenching the principle of specialization calls for the creation of an administrative judiciary next to the ordinary judiciary so the administrative judiciary can settle disputes to which the administration is a party and can ensure legitimacy. Even though Iraq's administrative judiciary experiment is relatively new and even though the Administrative Judiciary Court's jurisdiction is limited and modest, it can be still said that it is an experiment that urges us to maintain, strengthen, and develop it so we will establish well-considered administrative rules; will entrench the principle of specialized judiciary; and will secure judiciary guarantees for the citizen in his relations with the administration. We hope that the administrative judiciary's jurisdiction will be extended to include the examination of disputes connected with administrative contracts. We also hope that the powers of the committees and councils formed in government agencies and entrusted with examining submitted administrative appeals will be transferred to the Administrative Judiciary Court.

[Shujayri] Why?

[Al-Mahmud] Because maintaining the status quo means the presence of three authorities that examine the validity of administrative decrees, namely the Administrative Judiciary Court; the lower court, which examines appeals submitted in connection with administrative contracts; and the appeals committees formed in government agencies. This condition is not compatible with unity of the administrative judiciary. To complete all aspects of the experiment, I propose that the public prosecution be represented in the Administrative Judiciary Court in implementation of article 12/first of public prosecution law No. 159 of 1979 so this representation will contribute to accomplishing the principle of supremacy of the law and so legitimacy will be ensured. To ensure the judiciary status of the

administrative judiciary in word and spirit, considering the guarantees this status ensures for the achievement of justice and of total impartiality, I second the plan submitted by the Ministry of Justice in 1992. This plan calls for forming a judiciary committee in the State Consultative Council to consider appeals against rulings and decisions issued by the Administrative Judiciary Court and the General Disciplinary Council in accordance with a formula proposed by the plan. This committee would replace the State Consultative Council's General Committee so the latter will devote itself to legislative work and to offering opinions and advice.

What is the number of cases presented to the Administrative Judiciary Court? Is this court's work impeded because some agencies against which appeals are submitted procrastinate in cooperating with the court?

We addressed this question to magistrate Muhammad Abd-al-Muhsin, an Administrative Judiciary Court member, who said:

"The number of cases submitted to the Administrative Judiciary Court is increasing steadily because the citizen understands the role this court performs to ensure the sound application of laws, rules, and regulations within its jurisdiction. In 1994, nearly 200 cases were submitted to request the cancellation of administrative decrees. This is a relatively large number when compared with previous years when the number did not exceed 100 cases annually."

[Shujayri] What about the agencies against which the appeals are submitted?

[Abd-al-Muhsin] Their cooperation with the court is evident, even though there is some procrastination on their part in sending representatives to attend on their behalf. However, this obstacle has been overcome because everybody's goal is to preserve the principle of supremacy of the law and to ensure respect for the word and spirit of the law.

To conclude, the task of the Administrative Judiciary Court is, as its name makes evident, to decide cases involving citizens and "state agencies." The court performs its task accordingly. This task includes all agencies without exception. In this context, the official in charge of the agency against which the case is brought appoints an attorney to defend him. There are numerous cases submitted against general directors. The majority of cases are against ministers and their offices. Administrative Judiciary Court decisions can be contested before the Appellate Court.

Netanyahu 'Secretly' Meets King Husayn in London
TA0607162195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu secretly met King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan in London earlier this week. The meeting lasted about two hours. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar points out that Knesset Member Netanyahu briefed the prime minister.

Netanyahu Said Harmed Self by Revealing Army Document

TA2906141695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Jun 95 p 2

[Commentary by Amir Neumann: "Bibi Has Made an Error of Judgment Once Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu picked the time and place to drop his "bomb-shell" well. He pulled out what he called the document of the instructions the Israeli delegation was given while addressing a session of the Likud Bureau's political committee, held just as the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff were about to hold their first meeting in Washington, and in the place that — according to the reports — is one of the sites proposed for a Syrian early warning station. The time and the place were right, no doubt, but, making an error of judgment once again, Netanyahu harmed himself instead of the target at which he was aiming.

In principle, allowing the opposition to have access to the internal materials that serve as the basis for the cabinet policy-making should be viewed as a positive thing. Even more so when the opposition complains that it lacks real control of the moves. This principle applies to this government, just as it had to the previous ones. Therefore, it is good for democracy to have Knesset Member Dan Meridor expose the letter on Jerusalem attached to the agreement with the Palestinian Authority, just as it was good to have former opposition member Yosi Sarid aim a flashlight into past governments' hidden corners.

This principle, however, does not apply to what the Likud chairman did, and not because of the prime minister's and foreign minister's denials. The denials were relevant, but when a man comes across hard evidence, he rushes — after the denials were made — to put them on the table (the Knesset or a newspaper table) for the public to choose between his version and the denial. Here, Netanyahu followed his past habit: He ran to tell the guys before checking and rechecking whether he was holding a real or false bomb in his hands.

His claim of immunity ("you reporters must understand that I cannot reveal my sources") was merely a poor excuse. Any novice reporter knows that a document that cannot be published is dead news. At best, it adds to one's personal knowledge. If what you have said is denied and you cannot prove it, you have done nothing.

Netanyahu is no novice journalist, nor is he a rookie politician. He is a politician with a claim to the premiership who, this time, acted like a commentator who makes a series of claims without having the ability to prove them.

1. "Rabin has waived the demand to downsize the Syrian Army." Netanyahu draws this conclusion from the fact that the document does not mention an Israeli claim along these lines. But, has Rabin ever pledged to make such a demand? In the past, Rabin said that the possibility to raise such a demand would be examined in due course. Indeed, it was examined, and the conclusion was that any Israeli demand to downsize the Syrian Army will be responded to by a Syrian demand that Israel downsize its nonconventional force. Thus, it has been decided not to present this demand for the time being.

2. "Rabin dropped the demand that Israelis man the Hermon warning station." This is not stated in the document, but Netanyahu insists on interpreting its Clause 9 as an instruction to make such a concession.

3. "Rabin has forsaken the principle of geographic inequality in the demilitarization arrangements." Clauses 5 and 7(c)4 of the document which address these arrangements do not indicate that the principle of unequal demilitarization has been conceded; the opposite is perhaps true.

4. The possibility of placing foreign troops on the Golan Heights, at which Netanyahu lashed out, is indeed mentioned in the document, but is in no way a new Israeli stand.

5. "Rabin waived his demand that Hizballah be disarmed." Indeed, the parts of the document that Netanyahu revealed make no mention of such a demand, but this is hardly proof that it has been waived.

And still, what have we here? This story means that the Likud chairman has some access to the political-security system — because he had been a member of it in the past, or because the system wants things to be leaked to the opposition. Following the rush treatment Netanyahu gave the documents he received, it is questionable that this freedom of access will remain intact.

Outgoing Intelligence Chief on Golan 'Arrangement'

TA0307154395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Uri Sagi, the outgoing head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said that the chances of achieving a political arrangement were greater than the risk involved; however, serious threats should still be expected. Sagi said that until the situation changed, he preferred to see tanks stationed on the Golan Heights alongside the settlements since this is the essence of Zionism in the modern era. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Major General Sagi was speaking at a farewell session with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Syria Not Expected To Stop South Lebanon Fighting

TA0407101095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Jul 95 pp A1, A2

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Syria Will Not Intervene"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's Hizballah operation, in which two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed, shows that the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff meetings in Washington do not help calm activities in south Lebanon, and that Damascus will not take steps to stop the fighting before it is convinced that Israel has made significant concessions on the Golan Heights.

The operation yesterday attests to the fact that Hizballah has recently improved its remote controlled roadside bombs. The three soldiers killed on 18 June, two of which were trackers, were also hurt by a roadside bomb. The bombs are well hidden and not detected even when trackers walk at the head of the force.

The fact that Hizballah conducts its operations from a distance while avoiding direct contact with IDF patrols does not make much difference here because, at the end of the day, it meets its goal: More IDF soldiers are hurt by explosive charges than by direct attacks on outposts.

At the same time, despite of the last two incidents, Israel still has the upper hand in these incidents. Even if SLA [South Lebanese Army] casualties are taken into account, Hizballah suffers many more casualties and fatalities by various methods of operation — army-initiated activities north of the security zone, air raids, and more. Last weekend, Hizballah claimed that Israel is responsible for the killing of a Hizballah commander who died when his car exploded.

Besides the incident in which two IDF soldiers were killed and two were wounded, two more incidents took place in south Lebanon last night. A Golani Brigade unit encountered a Hizballah squad north of the security zone, but there were no reports of casualties on the other side. In another incident, three soldiers were injured in the area of Bra'shit. These incidents indicate that the battle — suspended for a few days during the chiefs of staff meeting in Washington — has resumed.

It is obvious that the Syrians will do nothing, certainly not at this stage, to curb Hizballah and other bodies in Lebanon. Damascus opposes a Lebanese participation in the military and political talks with Israel. Hence, at this stage, Israel will have to go on dealing with the problem on the military level. Eventually, however, the solution will be political, when the Syrians agree to incorporate the Lebanese in the military and political arrangements.

Chief of Staff Warns Hizballah, South Lebanese

TA0407112395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq is warning Hizballah and the residents of southern Lebanon that if the shelling of Israel's northern settlements and attempts to disrupt life there continue, they will have to pay a heavy price. The areas where katyusha launchers and terrorists are in southern Lebanon cannot remain places where a normal life goes on. If this continues, Hizballah members will impose a harsh reality on the residents of the south. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the chief of staff said this at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

More on Shahaq Warning to Hizballah

TA0407161995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq today sent a warning to the villagers in south Lebanon who support the Hizballah activities. At a meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff said that if the terrorist attacks continue and additional katyusha rockets are fired from Lebanon, the residents of the villages there will be forced to pay the price. Our correspondent Baraq Ronen reports:

[Begin recording] [Ronen] The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee discussed the tensions in south Lebanon today. The committee was briefed by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and other senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers who told the assembled Knesset members [MK's] that the number of attacks on SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF soldiers had increased by 55% during the first six months of 1995 as

compared to the same period last year. What Chief of Staff Shahaq finds especially worrisome is the change in Hizballah's policy with regard to firing katyusha rockets at Israel. We will not take it for granted that Hizballah decides precisely when Israel has overstepped the understandings reached following Operation Accountability and when it is justified in firing katyusha rockets. If this situation continues, the chief of staff warned, someone will pay the price.

[Shahaq] Normal life cannot be permitted to continue in the locations that serve as exit points for those who fire the katyusha rockets and for other terrorists in south Lebanon. This, as long as the Hizballah fighters use these locations as the staging points and cover for their activities. I fear that if this trend continues, Hizballah will once again force the residents of south Lebanon into a very difficult predicament.

[Ronen] During the meeting, Chief of Staff Shahaq was asked whether the IDF was considering the expansion of the security zone. Shahaq replied that everything was under consideration; however, he added that such a step would add tens of thousands of civilians, numerous villages, and many kilometers of roads to the problems the IDF had to face on a daily basis. The chief of staff was asked whether he was today threatening to carry out another Operation Accountability.

[Shahaq] I am not threatening. I am stating very clearly that Hizballah will not be allowed to disrupt life in northern Israel. We will not let this happen. If this happens, there will be a price to pay.

[Ronen] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu hastened to support the tough line adopted by the chief of staff. Netanyahu was not deterred by Shahaq's vow to find out the identity of the person who leaked the contents of an internal IDF document to the opposition chairman and promised to support the government.

[Netanyahu] I can say that as a policy, the government, if it takes tough action against Hizballah, will enjoy widespread support from the opposition.

[Ronen] However, dissenting positions were also voiced. Meretz Knesset Member Ran Kohen said that any attempt to resolve the situation in south Lebanon in one fell swoop would not help but only lead to more casualties and disaster. [end recording]

Speaking at the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, the chief of staff also addressed the interim accord expected to be signed with the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. Shahaq said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] would bear most of the burden for preventing terrorist attacks after the IDF

pulled out of the town centers. This, despite the holding of joint patrols in the West Bank.

Sources: No 'Perfect' Solution to Roadside Bombs
TA0407125195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Jul 95 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] A military source says that Hizballah has specialized in planting trip wire and wireless roadside bombs on axes which, as Hizballah knows, will be crossed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] or SLA [South Lebanese Army] units. The bomb which caused the death of the two IDF soldiers yesterday was a trip wire variety planted in the wake of prior information.

"In an encounter with terrorists," the officer said, "the IDF will always have the upper hand, and therefore the terrorists try not to confront IDF forces directly, rather choosing to activate all types of roadside bombs and to attack IDF and SLA posts."

The roadside bombs, the officer added, is one of the hardest problems for IDF and SLA soldiers in southern Lebanon.

According to military sources, the IDF has several methods of coping with roadside bombs in southern Lebanon, but they do not provide a complete or perfect solution.

According to a military source, various types of bombs are manufactured in plants in Shiite villages in southern Lebanon, including some which contain hundreds of steel balls which cause numerous casualties.

More than 100 roadside bombs were activated in southern Lebanon in 1994. According to senior officers, when an axis is opened, all actions necessary to ascertain the absence of bombs are taken, but the terrorists sometimes manage to plant a bomb before the force returns.

Hizballah is aided by local inhabitants for intelligence gathering. Brigadier General Shmu'el Zucker, the commander of the Galilee formation, said in an interview to HA'ARETZ recently: "Every shepherd can be a Hizballah intelligence man." In addition to the dozens of villagers who observe IDF activity, Hizballah members too are deployed in the areas where the IDF is active and they too collect information.

The terrorists receive the measures necessary for assembling of bombs through the Lebanese al-Biqa', which is under Syrian control, and the Lebanese Army turns a blind eye to this.

Intelligence Officers on Number of 'Terrorist' Incidents

TA0407141095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent notes that representatives of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch reported a continuing rise in the number of terrorist incidents in south Lebanon [at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee]. The number of such attacks had increased by 50 percent since the beginning of 1995. This rise was mainly attributable to the use of explosive charges and Sagger missiles. The officers noted that there had been an approximately 50-percent decrease in the number of terrorist incidents in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria, whereas in Jerusalem the incidence of such events remained unchanged.

Ministry: Sea Canal Project 'Economically Unfeasible'

TA3006160995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV ('ASAQIM)
in Hebrew 29 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Greenstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The canal is economically unfeasible and will not solve the water problems of Israel and Jordan. The use of purified water should be gradually increased," according to the National and Economic Planning Authority in the Ministry of Economy and Planning.

An investigation by Dr. Dani Friedman into the economic feasibility of the plan to build a canal to channel sea water to the Dead Sea, found it not to be economically worthwhile. The investment required would be some \$6 billion, of which some \$2 billion would be needed to dig the canal, and the rest for building desalination plants and setting up installations to manufacture electricity and a system to transport desalinated water in Israel and Jordan.

Dr. Rafi Bar'el, head of the National and Economic Planning Authority, said that the most efficient way to desalinate water is to set up plants on the beach, but that the costs would be too high. Bar'el believes that purifying sewage water is vital to increasing water supplies, especially for agricultural use. He suggests a policy of gradually raising the level of purified water to about half of all the water in municipal usage.

Bar'el said that "among the canal options, that of a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal, brought up in talks with the Jordanians, does not appear economically worthwhile.

Bar'el stressed that the canal (to the Dead Sea) cannot be implemented for economic reasons: "The value of desalinating sea water that way compared to doing it on the beach front depends on receiving international loans at very low interest rates. But it is doubtful they can be gotten," Bar'el said. "Anyway, the solution of a canal calls for very heavy capital investment, and it is doubtful that it can be made."

King Husayn Interviewed on Peace Process, Iraq
JN0107192295 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Interview with King Husayn by EURONEWS television correspondent Giacomo Mazzone in Amman; date not given — recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles; transcribed from English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Mazzone] Welcome to this episode of PRISMA. This week we have with us the pleasure of having as a host King Husayn of Jordan. Our program will be about the Middle East problems and the Jordan situation today. Good morning.

[Husayn] Good morning to you, sir; thank you so much.

[Mazzone] Thanks to you. The view is that all the world is looking to the Middle East carefully in these days again because a lot of events are expected or are on the way to arrive. When you started among the others this peace process three years ago, you expected this would come so slowly and with so much troubles?

[Husayn] I don't know that it has come so slowly. As far as we are concerned here, I believe that looking back at a year since the Washington Declaration, we have covered a tremendous distance in terms of the fact that we have an international boundary with the State of Israel for the first time, and we are looking after it, both Jordanians and Israelis, without the presence of UN observers or peacekeeping forces. It has recovered to Jordan its lands that were under occupation. We have also worked out our rights in terms of water in the contexts of Jordan and Israel, and much has been done in that direction. And many of the barriers have disappeared and people move between the two countries. And I believe that in time what will be achieved is a peace between people. We have a peace treaty but now we are in the process of peace building.

So, sometimes I feel that maybe it is a fact that we are moving too slowly in terms of all the years that we have lost in the past, to give our people the opportunity and the chance to live the kind of life that we never had. But at the same time, I believe that we have covered enough ground to be proud of so far.

Of course on the Palestinian-Israeli track, we are fully supportive of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and its leadership, and we certainly will do whatever we can through the opportunities presented now through peace between Jordan and Israel to help all concerned move toward the establishment of peace. We hope that the Syrian track and thereafter the Lebanese track which is connected to it, will also move soon and that what we have achieved

will be a cornerstone in a comprehensive peace in this region.

[Mazzone] There was a withdrawal, from the occupied territories, of Israel that was scheduled in these days and that will not happen and will be delayed. Which are, in your opinion, the main obstacles, internal political reasons for Israel or real problems?

[Husayn] I hope that this will be only a very temporary hiccup in terms of the process and I hope that negotiations will continue directly between the two parties concerned with the support of all of us to ensure that Palestinians recover their rights on their legitimate soil. I believe the subject is redeployment, initially is one of the steps that eventually lead to the recovery of Palestinian rights on all of the soil which is subject of question, and I hope that something will happen rather soon. I think that probably there has been some adverse effect of the result of acts by those who are opposed to peace on both sides. The Hebron massacre, the other terrible incidents that occurred, have, unfortunately, adversely affected public opinion in both areas. But on the other hand I feel very strongly that, in fact, what should happen is that all should ensure that the peace camp, which is the overwhelming majority of people, has the final say and continues with serious dedication to resolve all problems and give people hope and confidence in a future, which is their right.

[Mazzone] Somebody has the opinion that this is a race against the time, against the watch, because the Israeli Government has not in front of them a lot of time because the next elections are not so far. Do you think that if the peace process will not arrive to a solid basis, this could be under discussion with the next Israeli Government?

[Husayn] I certainly wish and pray for rapid progress because unless that is achieved, those who believe in peace, those who belong to the peace camp, will have their spirits dampened by lack of progress. And the dangers are tremendous, in addition to the fact that in the area there will be Israeli elections and there will be simultaneously American elections coming up. So there may be other factors that could slow or make it impossible to make progress. That's where, I believe, that we have a window of opportunity which is not limitless and I really hope that we'll see some progress before then.

[Mazzone] One of the edge of this window is the start or the beginning with the negotiations on the future of Jerusalem. That seems quite a hard task for everybody, what is your view of the future of this holy town, holy for many religions and a lot of people all around the world?

[Husayn] My view for Jerusalem is that Arab Jerusalem was occupied in 1967 and is therefore a part of the occupied territories. But if we are talking about peace in this region, I have very, very strong feelings that it is time that we approach this subject on two levels. One, Palestinian, Arab, Israeli, and the other, the dimension which is the spiritual one, as regards the children of Abraham and their descendants, as regards the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. And Jerusalem, in terms of the old city, the holy city, thus, in my view, should be under the domain of not any particular side. It should belong to all believers in God and should be above the sovereignty of any nation, and beyond that, western Jerusalem has been the de facto capital of Israel. Eastern Jerusalem should be the capital of the Palestinian people, in terms of the future. If that ever happens, we shall see the beginnings of the coming together of the followers of the three great monotheistic religions and we shall see also Jerusalem become a symbol of peace between not only Palestinians and Israelis but Arabs and Israelis as well. This is something I've tried to put across as much as I could and this is my belief in the best way to resolve it. But in any event, I would not like to step on anyone's toes or to speak of something which is outside my jurisdiction at this stage. There is an agreement between Israel and the PLO and the Palestinian people and their leadership to discuss Jerusalem last. And I will do whatever I can to help in that process at the right time.

[Mazzone] So in your view in the future it could be possible to have two capitals in the same town without creating a new Berlin?

[Husayn] Indeed. I feel that it could be a point that attracts all the followers of the three great religions in terms of the old city itself.

[Mazzone] Apart from Jerusalem, another difficult point where in this peace process, the relation with Syria. That, according to some opinions, this could be one of the point on which there will be some news soon.

[Huysan] I hope so.

[Mazzone] Probably you have better sources than me.

[Husayn] I would like to have any particular sources that are more than you would have access to, but we are certainly hopeful that the new dialogue will lead to a progress in the resolution of that dimension of their problem as well. And I hope very, very much indeed that the more direct contact between the two parties occurs with the help of the rest of the world, the greater the opportunities will be to remove the barriers of fear and suspicion, and maybe eventually to arrive at a solution. But essentially, any problem between two parties has

to be resolved between them although the world has a great interest, and the United States in particular, and I hope they will continue to help towards that end.

[Mazzone] And you think that the difficulties that remain are on the military side or as you said a question of feeling of reciprocity trust?

[Husayn] I don't think that there are problems that are insurmountable if there is vision and there is the commitment to act in the interest of our peoples and generations to come. I hope that difficulties will be overcome.

[Mazzone] And what kind of political entity do you see in your future as a neighbor of Jordan in Palestine?

[Husayn] That is something that is up to our brethren in Palestine to decide. I believe that nothing can be preplanned. There is no point in discussing any formula. When people are under conditions of freedom, they enjoy democracy, pluralism, respect of human rights, they are masters in their own home, then is a chance for them to decide what kind of a relationship they should have with those who are closest to them in this region.

[Mazzone] Are you willing to give them a wish? Not only for them because...

[Husayn, interrupting] I think that relations will always be very, very strong and always be very very special. But anyone who suggests that there should be a certain plan or certain formula at this stage would be probably causing more harm and damage to these relations between these two peoples who are so close together, and who are almost members of the same family than anything else. Palestinians want to have their say regarding their future on their own land, and we respect that and support it. And therefore, there is nothing we say can except to help them as much as we can with no other ulterior motive whatsoever.

[Mazzone] But there was a moment in which seems that a confederation among Jordan and Palestine could be forecast.

[Husayn] That was a Palestinian suggestion, and as far as we are concerned, we will not look at anything until such time as people are people to express themselves freely, and to determine exactly how the relation should be.

[Mazzone] And you think that this time is still far or because...

[Husayn, interrupting] I hope, in terms of the solution to the problem, I hope that we are close to it. And I hope that Palestinians will recover their rights. Here in Jordan we are all members of one family, but the question is

Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil, and under their leadership, I hope they'll succeed in achieving that.

[Mazzone] So when the election will arrive finally in Palestine, you think that will be the right moment to discuss all these topics with the new government?

[Husayn] I believe that when the right moment comes, we will have already worked together — which we are doing now to the best of our ability — and then it will have to be worked out exactly, what kind of a relationship it would be.

[Mazzone] Somebody is afraid about this election, because in this area democratic elections for some countries of the region that are not used to having democratic elections could see it as a threat.

[Husayn] Well, I certainly do not view it as a threat. I view the absence of democracy as a threat. I believe people cannot stop the clock nor turn it back, and as long as people do not feel that they are important, do not feel that they have rights in shaping their future, then there is more of a threat. And I hope that what we are doing in Jordan, as a result, will be a positive example to many others in our region. And it is only through the creation of institutions representing people and their hopes and aspirations that one can really guarantee stability and moving away from the tragedies of the past to creating greater complementarity, cooperation in the region and for the people of the region in a future that would be their right and would be worthy of them.

[Mazzone] Democracy means also that, as happened recently in Algeria, that fundamentalists could overcome in a moment or in another. The Algerian Government reacted very badly to this and Westerners were frightened about this. What would be your reaction?

[Husayn] I believe, sir, that what you see and what we see at times which causes us great pain, is a reflection of a situation of despair of people. It has an effect definitely in terms of the economic dimension, whenever that is not addressed in terms of the needs of people, in terms of the quality of life of people. But there is much that is done under the cover of the so-called fundamentalism which has nothing to do with our religion or our faith or our beliefs. And I feel more and more compelled to do whatever I can to defend Islam and its true face and its true image and true message than had ever been the case in the past, in terms of so much abuse that has occurred of late. And I believe what we are seeing is politicized religion, not true religion, not true faith in many cases. But in any event, I really hope that the answer would be in greater democracy, in greater freedom, in greater respect for human rights, so that people can weigh in, and I believe that the overwhelming majority of

people will create the answer in the face of extremism everywhere. And incidentally, fundamentalism, as it is called, is not confined to the Muslim world. It is something that we are seeing in different parts of the world at this stage. Let's hope that a dialogue between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions and the resolution of their differences, which should not be there in the first place, would help towards putting an end to this extremism that we suffer from.

[Mazzone] It exists the fundamentalist problem in Jordan?

[Husayn] Not to any troubling point. Here, it is out in the open, we have a dialogue, and I believe that the overwhelming majority of people are the guarantee against any extremism in the present or the future.

[Mazzone] You stressed the importance of the economic development in the area. When you started the peace process, you asked for help to everybody, to the more rich countries of the globe. You have seen some concrete results of this call?

[Husayn] We have seen some concrete results. We are promised more in the future. But we are also preparing for a major summit conference, an economic conference here in Jordan towards the end of the year, where I hope we will present before the world and those who wish to join us, the possibilities and the potential of being partners in building the future of this entire region in the context of peace. And I hope that in any event within the next two, three, four, five years at the most, this country would have made such strides and a change in the quality of life of its people, as to really answer all those skeptics once and for all as to the merits of peace and security for all the people or a continuation of the delving into the darkness that threatens everybody in this entire region which was what was happening over so many years. Peace obviously has to bring about with it a change in the quality of life of people, and I hope that this will be possible.

[Mazzone] My last question. EURONEWS has the majority of its viewers in Europe, and Europe has made some promises to you to the people that live in this area. What do you expect from Europe and what do you think that Europe could concretely do in the future?

[Husayn] We hope and expect our many friends in Europe to be our partners. We are close to them and they are close to us and our future is interlinked in a very major way and we are proud of the relations that exist between us and our many European friends, and we would like to see them develop and grow, and beyond that in terms of stability in this region, I believe it is important to Europe as it is to us and progress as it will

enable us to complement each other in every way. So, we really hope and count on our European friends to help in the times ahead. And we see our future as being one which brings us close partners and friends.

[Mazzone] United Arabic states?

[Husayn] United Arabic states, Arab states, when that is possible, it will happen.

[Mazzone] You think that the European model could be once applied to this area? The European Union model, I mean?

[Husayn] I have always believed in that and preached that over the many years that have passed that the example that Europe presents could be an example that should be followed in this part of the world. After all, we have far more less reasons to be divided than what had been the case in Europe, and to live Europe's experience to see their achievements in terms of our friends there to see the European parliament, to see the changes and the impact on the world — this is something that has definitely calls for us to hope that this will happen in our part of the world as well, and unity, when it comes here, should come as a result of the creation of institutions that guarantee continuity, cohesion, and complementarity and this will have to be a unity of equals as well. And I really hope that we are not too far from seeing that.

[Mazzone] What do you think that Europe could do for the Palestinians? In general for the area, but for the Palestinians probably there is a special effort to do.

[Husayn] They need a lot of help and a lot of support. They have suffered, they have many needs and again the situation is teetering between the majority who are moving for peace and have taken great risks for it, and worthy ones, in my view, and those who are opposed to it. So something has to happen to change the quality of life of people, and every support should be given to ensure progress for the complete resolution of the problems and the beginning of a comprehensive era of peace in this region.

[Mazzone] There is another people in this area—they are many but let us say another nation in dire straits in this moment is Iraq because of the sanctions of the United Nations. What you think could be the right way to sort out this situation?

[Husayn] I believe Iraq is very, very important. It is an important country, it has a great history, it has a great people, it has a great position within the context of this region and this area, and I really hope the suffering of the Iraqi people will come to an end before long. Iraq

must be a vital part of this region, and hopefully of the peace process within this region and I think enough is enough. People have to be given their chance to live as human beings, and not to continue to suffer in the way they have over so many years.

[Mazzone] But the general opinion is that the Americans would continue to keep the pressure on the country if this country will not change its leadership. Do you have this feeling?

[Husayn] That is a very interesting situation then because ... [pauses] I mean you have one of two alternatives—and I have said that to many people—either the world adopts a very new policy and philosophy and comes out straight to say that as long as a certain regime or a certain leadership is in a certain country, as long as that continues, then they will be faced with what Iraq has been faced with—which is a very dangerous precedent and I do not think that people will readily accept that. Or you have to begin to have a dialogue to get out of this situation and deal with it; and I do not look very happily at the UN playing the role of a quarter that gives anesthetic every now and then and talk to people that is false. I think that enough is enough and the people of Iraq cannot continue to suffer the way they have.

[Mazzone] The image of the Arabs around the world.

[Husayn] Of the Arabs?

[Mazzone] Of the Arabs and the Arabic countries, probably is not correct. What you think that has to be done to improve it?

[Husayn] I think a lot depends on us in the Arab world to try to improve our image. I think that we have done ourselves a great deal of damage over the years, the way we have portrayed ourselves. And I really hope that this will be addressed by us within the Arab world. I think that many of the Arab people feel angry about that and I do not think it is right to blame others but to blame ourselves and I really hope that the Arab nation will regain the position it once held in this world of respect by its own deeds, its own actions, and its openness to the world, and hopefully, its movement toward unity and cohesion and complementarity.

[Mazzone] Thank you very much for this conversation and we all hope that the future of this region will be a lot better than has been in the past. Thank you for listening, for watching this PRISMA program and we shall see after the summertime because PRISMA will take a vacation, a rest. Thank you for watching EURONEWS.

Washington Talks, Israeli 'Threats' Viewed

*NC0707094195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Jul 95*

["Pause With an Event" program: "Threats Will Be of No Avail to the Enemy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Washington negotiations between Syrian Army Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi and his Israeli counterpart [Major Gen.] Amnon Shahaq ended last week. Little information has leaked out about the talks. But they have reached a delicate and sensitive stage. The Americans are trying to find common denominators and to reduce the differences. Gen. al-Shihabi, a professional military man, demonstrated courage in war as he did great capabilities in the negotiations, as many U.S. commentators admitted. In short it was obvious that Damascus holds the cards of the political and diplomatic game as part of a policy that has not changed. Damascus retains the initiative and improves the opportunities of attack and defense to exhaust the enemy and weaken its self-confidence rather than allow the enemy to make a breakthrough to tip the balance.

Thus the Zionists are faced with an unavoidable option: Either withdraw to the 4 July 1967 borders, in accordance with the Syrian conditions and accept security arrangements ensuring security for both parties, as numerous Syrian leaders have emphasized, or expose the peace process to collapse. There is no compromise between the two options, such as allowing Rabin to win peace without giving up the land. Rabin is forced not only to give up the land, but also to review his stance on the nature of peace and the future.

During every round of talks involving senior military officials in the past three years, including the latest round, the Zionists have been worried by Hizballah and the Resistance in south Lebanon. The Zionists have repeatedly asked officials in Damascus, either directly or through mediators, to pressure Hizballah to stop the Resistance operations. The Syrian response was firm. The latest Syrian response was a remark by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that the problem lies not in the Resistance fighters, but in the occupiers. He stressed that the Lebanese have a right to resist the occupation with every appropriate means. If the Zionists want peace, let them withdraw immediately. Thus we can understand the deterioration of things in the occupied south and the enemy's futile attempts to stop or contain the Resistance operations.

What Rabin and [Major Gen.] 'Amiram Levin, commander of the occupied north Palestine, did not expect was the Resistance fighters' courage and valor in strik-

ing at the Israelis. The Zionists have grown used to attacking Lebanese civilians, so the equation has changed since 1982. Both Zionist civilians and military are now vulnerable to attack if they retaliate against Lebanese civilians. As Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said, a kind of balance of terror has emerged. Rabin complained about this balance when he said the major problem is the Lebanese front. This means that the Resistance is near to its goal of forcing the occupation forces to withdraw from south Lebanon to the international borders.

Since the Zionists relied on the Lahdist [Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, SLA] making them serve as sandbags, the latest developments and successes by the mujahidin have forced Rabin to propose an initiative, the first of its kind, calling for a barter between the Lahdist gangs and Hizballah. Israel took this initiative and quick practical steps to control the Lahdist moves. Israel blamed the pro-Israel militia for the deterioration and the rocket attacks on the Zionist settlements in north Palestine. Israel dispatched two officers to each Lahdist post to run things. This step by the enemy shows the Resistance's power and influence and indicates that the end to the Lahdist militia's role is near. By taking this step, Tel Aviv perhaps wants to show Damascus that it did what is necessary with its allies, and that Syria should do the same with its allies. This could serve as a prelude to an Israeli desire to turn this initiative into a basic point of negotiation with Syria. Israel seeks to make the issue of quieting the south one of the security arrangements on which agreement must be reached with Syria.

Observers note that these goals serve Israeli interests, not Syria's. Syrian officials have often reiterated that they will not pressure the Lebanese Resistance or ask it to lay down its arms, because resistance is one of the rights of the Lebanese and of all those whose land is occupied. Syrian sources say Israeli officials lack cogent logic and ignore facts when they call on the Syrian and Lebanese Governments to disarm the Resistance while the occupation continues, because this simply means protecting the occupation and securing its forces. This prompted the Israeli leaders to threaten to launch an aggression against south Lebanon. The threats were accompanied by Israeli military reinforcements in the Hasbayya areas. Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq threatened to attack Lebanese villages if Hizballah fighters launch an operation. These threats are merely an indication of weakness. After accusing the Agent Lahd militia of causing the bombardment of the settlements and major losses in lives and equipment, the enemy resorted to threats to raise the morale of its soldiers.

The Zionist health minister said there is a wide gap and great lack of understanding between Israel and Syria and that if the Syrians desire to bridge this gap, they should stop Hizballah operations. This shows the bitter defeat the enemy is suffering in south Lebanon at the hands of the brave Islamic Resistance mujahidin. It also shows the capabilities of these heroes. The repeated Israeli acts of aggression have only increased the consciousness of

our people and nation. If the Zionists launch a new aggression, it will only increase their consciousness of the dangers of Israel's existence, not only in the south, but in Palestine. Let them carry out their threats and let the will of liberation confront the desire for occupation. "God will certainly aid those who aid his (cause)." [Koranic verse]

German Foreign Minister Kinkel Continues Visit

Al-Zu'bi, Kinkel Hold Talks

JN0607135395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and his delegation at 1030 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador in Germany, and the German ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various fields in the interest of the two peoples and countries.

Al-Zu'bi also met with the German economic delegation at 1130 today. The meeting was attended by Kinkel, the Syrian ambassador to Germany, and the German ambassador in Damascus.

At this meeting, the prime minister spoke about the policies followed by Syria to develop the national economy, and he explained the policy Syria has been following since the early 1970's under the wise and sound instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad with the aim of realizing comprehensive, balanced, and continuous economic development.

The prime minister emphasized that the principle of economic pluralism has given the opportunity to all citizens to participate in building the homeland. He said the new economic facts the Syrian economy has witnessed show the soundness and credibility of this policy.

Al-Zu'bi explained the importance of the great job made by Syria through providing an appropriate investment atmosphere to draw in national, Arab, and foreign capital, and he spoke about the positive results made in the economic arena.

The prime minister also stressed that there is a desire to develop relations with Germany.

The members of the German economic delegation expressed their pleasure at visiting Syria and their desire to bolster relations between Syria and Germany in the service of joint interests.

The official talks resumed at the Foreign Ministry this morning between the Syrian side led by al-Shar' and the German side led by Kinkel. The members of the two delegations attended the talks. The meeting continued discussion of issues that were raised yesterday.

Al-Shar', Kinkel Hold News Conference

JN0607192895 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel held a joint news conference this afternoon attended by Arab and foreign reporters, media representatives, the media delegation accompanying Mr. Kinkel, and a number of Syrian information and press officials.

At the beginning of the conference, al-Shar' welcomed Mr. Kinkel and said: We are satisfied with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's visit to Syria and the talks he held yesterday and today. Mr. Kinkel's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad were useful and positive, encompassing many topics, particularly the peace process and bilateral relations. The talks also touched on several international topics.

For his part, Mr. Kinkel said: I would like to thank you very much and apologize for the delay of this news conference. The delay is due to the long and unique meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Minister Kinkel said: Again I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Syrian foreign minister for allowing us to become your guests and talk on issues of joint concern, especially on political, economic, and cultural relations. In particular, the talks dealt with the peace process, which is passing through critical stages at this time.

Kinkel said: My visit to Syria is within the general policy of the Federal Republic of Germany, especially toward the peace process and toward Syria's unique position in the process.

Kinkel added: My visit is motivated by the special importance Germany attaches to the Middle East region. He said: As I told you, I had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the Syrian foreign minister, and the ministers of economy and finance. All these talks contribute toward strengthening bilateral relations.

Kinkel added: We are very interested in the peace and its developments, and I allude especially to the recent meeting between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff and the results that have been reached.

He said: Israel knows perfectly well that the peace process cannot be complete and comprehensive unless Syria takes its place in the peace process because under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria plays the key and basic role in the peace process and in advancing it. Mr. Kinkel added: I know perfectly well that an historic opportunity exists of which we must

avail ourselves to advance the peace process and realize progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said: During my prolonged meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, I mentioned that there are historic circumstances and moments which we must utilize to advance the peace process in order to serve the region, and hence make the Syrian and Israeli sides take stands that contribute toward this end. I also told President Hafiz al-Asad that there will be a big and noticeable development in economic relations between Germany in particular and the European Union [EU] on the one hand and Syria on the other on all levels, and that I have highlighted this point in the EU's economic council. We discussed relations that are of interest to both sides. I tell you in this news conference that we have reached very positive results in this context.

Minister Kinkel said: Certainly Syria's participation in the upcoming Barcelona conference is very important and indispensable. Syria can present many issues that are of interest to it economically and politically.

The German minister said: In this visit to your country, I am accompanied by a 28-member economic delegation representing the most important German economic figures. This in itself is evidence of the importance which Germany in particular and Europe in General attach to strengthening economic cooperation between Syria and Germany and the German economic establishments.

Kinkel added: I invited the Syrian foreign minister to participate in the European foreign ministers conference which will be held in Bonn next year.

Kinkel, said: Finally allow me to discuss some points on my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. This is the first time that I have met his excellency but the meeting this time was unique. We dealt in detail with the peace process and the Syrian policy, and with many Arab and world issues. I explained to the president the importance which Germany in particular and Europe in general attaches to Syria and its key, leading, and central role in the peace process. I highlighted and stressed the basic role which the president plays in the region's development and activities. We also dealt with a number of issues related to Iraq, Iran, Russia, and Bosnia, and talked of Europe's political future and security.

Al-Shar' and Kinkel then answered journalists' questions.

Answering a question on Syria's debts to German institutions, Kinkel said: We have discussed this issue and reached a mechanism to resolve it.

Asked whether Syria is satisfied with the role Germany is playing as a broker in the peace process, al-Shar' said: Syria has always encouraged Europe to play an

effective role in advancing the peace process. I can say that the absence of a European participation in the Madrid conference and the subsequent negotiations is basically due to the European side. Regarding the role Europe can play now, it is an important role if there will be a political will, particularly the role of Germany, taking into consideration that it is a big and important power in the EU. It can advance the peace process by encouraging the side which shows seriousness and desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and by criticizing, in any way, the side which obstructs or delays the peace process.

Al-Shar' added: Despite this, if we analyze the situation since several years before the Madrid conference, we will regrettably find that there was a European stand which is closer to Israel than to Syria and the Arab side. In a clearer way, I say that at a time when all doors of European cooperation were opened before Israel, these doors were closed for Syria and some Arab states.

Mr. Kinkel said: I would like to say something, and I ask my colleague al-Shar' to understand me: The European states, particularly Germany, follow a policy which is characterized by objectivity, balance, and evenness between the Arab states and Israel. He stressed that his country adopts a balanced policy. Regarding some Syrian complaints of some European stands, I say: You are right, and you have every right to adopt this stand.

Minister Kinkel said that his talks with the Syrian officials were held in a great atmosphere of frankness.

Answering a question on how there will be a balanced European role in the Middle East as long as Israel has rejected this role, Kinkel said: I have said that this balance and fairness in relations used to exist in the past and will continue to exist in the future.

He added: We do not aspire for a great political role in this regard; namely, the role of a broker, but we want to give advice on this and the other tracks. I tell you that we realize that the Arabs want us to play a more effective role in this regard, but I say that we should leave the political mediation to the Americans, and we, the Europeans, should concentrate further on the economic aid.

Answering a question on the economic talks held by the economic delegation accompanying him in Syria, and the agreements it has reached, Kinkel said: I do not want to say that we have reached specific agreements in the field of economic cooperation, because this is not the business of the German Foreign Ministry. However, I say that we have held positive talks with the prime minister and with officials at the Economic Ministry

and the Finance Ministry on effective German economic contribution in economic projects in the future.

Newspapers: Israel Evading Peace Requirements

JN0707090195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the military talks which have been held recently in Washington between Syria and Israel, AL-BA'TH today says: During the talks, the two sides reviewed the factors of the security arrangements. The paper notes that no final agreement has been reached regarding these factors in general because the Israeli side is not fully prepared to quickly give a momentum to the peace process to reach an agreement, contrary to Syria, which is very serious in pushing the peace process forward to reach a genuine peace.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel is the only party which wastes times and squanders the efforts of others aiming at achieving a just and comprehensive peace. The paper adds: It has become clear that Israel is still practicing its old policy, evading peace requirements, and obstructing the achievement of the required progress in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH notes that since the Madrid conference, Syria has been reaffirming that it has chosen the strategy of peace, which is based on implementing international legitimacy resolutions. Proceeding from this, the paper adds, Damascus will continue to work with any effort aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, Syria will continue to reject any incomplete solutions that will not restore all rights to their owners.

AL-BA'TH adds: Peace has its own requirements and the commitment to implement these requirements is a basic condition to achieve the aspired peace, which is sought by the world. And the U.S. sponsor of the peace process knows this full well.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Syria will continue its endeavor to achieve peace, but not any peace. Israel should realize that everything depends on the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border — the principle which is considered the pivot of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH writes in one of its commentaries: What is required is a change in the Israeli position which must be in harmony with the bases of peace and with the commitment to its requirements. After three and a half years of peace efforts, after reaching a set of understandings on security arrangements, and after the Washington military meeting, the Israeli stand continues

as it was in terms of intransigence and maneuvering. The paper adds: Thus, the criterion of Israeli seriousness toward peace is linked with seeing a change. However, what has been issued by Israel so far, even a few days prior to the new tour of the region by U.S. envoy Ross, indicates that Israel is not yet ready for peace and that it is not serious in abiding by its bases.

AL-THAWRAH notes that each day Israel encroaches on the bases, or one of the bases, of the peace through the continuous aggression against Lebanon or through its adherence to occupation and its rejection of full withdrawal. The paper says that all these acts are an encroachment on the principles of peace, adding that peace cannot be established if one of these principles is missing, because peace is an integrated whole. AL-THAWRAH adds: All conditions of peace, stipulated by international legitimacy resolutions, must be met so that it will be an accepted and lasting peace, and this is what Syria is trying to achieve. However, this peace is still facing many Israeli obstacles.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Achieving progress in the peace process depends on Israel's commitment to the implementation of the related international legitimacy resolutions and on U.S. seriousness in pressuring Israel to make it abide by the rules of peace and by the principles of the U.S. initiative — namely, land for peace.

AL-THAWRAH writes the following in another commentary: It has become clear to world public opinion again that there is a big gap between Israel and peace and that the maneuvering margin — which was supposed to become narrow due to U.S. insistence on achieving progress on giving the required momentum to the peace process, and on implementing the principle of land for peace — has become wider. The paper adds that the Israeli side has repeated its attempts to evade peace requirements and conditions and its negotiators continued to follow the policy of procrastination and bypassing the realities of peace so as to evade peace requirements.

Noting the sincere Syrian desire for peace, AL-THAWRAH says: One must not believe that this desire and Syria's honest response to the U.S. mediation efforts in this regard mean that Syria will bargain over or relinquish an inch of national or pan-Arab soil and rights. Syria, the paper adds, will not accept less than full withdrawal from the Golan and Southern Lebanon, the return to the 4 June 1967 border, and the establishing of balanced [mutazawiyah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements.

Radio: Israel Not Yet Prepared for Decisionmaking

JN0607132995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: After every round of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, there is talk about a gap or gaps between the positions of the two sides. Moreover, the Israeli side itself has the same opinion. However, all agree that the party responsible for these gaps and for removing them is certainly not Syria.

We are not going to speak now about the responsibility for such a situation, but no one can forget some practices that preceded the recent military talks in Washington. While the U.S. Administration was saying that it will make intensive efforts during this round, represented in U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's participation and in the early announcement that the U.S. President intends to receive the two delegations, some Israeli sources said the presence of the U.S. partner and sponsor of peace process is not necessary under the pretext that this presence will give an official nature to the negotiations. It is a fact that any negotiations between two parties on any subject is an official process and not a social event, so what is the situation then if the negotiations are on a noble and great objective, which is just peace?

After every round of negotiations, Israel continued to demand raising the level of negotiators, but when the last round was held a few days ago on the level of chiefs of staff—which is a level whose importance no one can dispute—it was found that the Israeli delegation is not authorized to make decisions. The evidence on this was that the delegation would jump from one point to another without justification. This shows that Israel is not yet prepared for decisionmaking.

These facts are enough to show the party responsible for making the gaps or for not bridging the gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions. Nevertheless, Israel tries in vain to hold the Syrian side responsible for these gaps under the pretext that the Syrian position lacks flexibility. Hence, it should be stated that if flexibility means that Syria relinquishes its national and pan-Arab constants, which are the constants that are in line with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, certainly Syria will not relinquish these constants. But if flexibility means sincere efforts to realize just peace, then the world and its influential forces can testify that Syria has facilitated the launching of the peace process, and that through its patience it has rescued the peace process several times not only from a stalemate but

even from collapse. This position was received with a broad international appreciation. All know that Syria is eager to maintain peace and that it only wants justice ['adl] and equitability [takafu']. Justice means Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian and Lebanese territories to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is what the Security Council resolutions called for. As for equitability, it means the equitability, balance [tawazun] and equality [tasawi] of the security arrangements on the Syrian and Israeli sides in a manner that ensures that the security of one party will not be at the expense of the other party.

National Assembly Speaker Qaddurah Interviewed

95AA0165A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 95 p 4

[Interview with People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah by Fadiyah Zu'bi in Kuwait; date not given: "We Support the Unity of Iraq and Reject Geographical Changes; The Time Is Not Yet Ripe for Private Banking in Our Country" — first paragraph is AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met with 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, during his official visit to Kuwait at the head of a parliamentary delegation. This was in response to an invitation from Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

[Zu'bi] How does Syria assess the results of its negotiations in the peace process?

[Qaddurah] The peace process is still going in circles. There are meetings and efforts, but there is nothing you could describe as a step forward. So far no positive signs have appeared on the horizon, despite the fact that this process started three years ago. For two decades, however, Syria has viewed peace as its strategic option, and this option became completely clear after the Madrid conference. We reaffirm here that if the peace process is not confined to the framework of the Madrid conference; international resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338; and the principle of total withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace—withdrawal to the borders of 4 June [1967]—then I believe there will be no progress on this front.

[Zu'bi] Syrian-U.S. relations have evolved in recent years. What prevents the American mediator in the peace talks from adopting the Syrian position, especially as it is in line with UN resolutions?

[Qaddurah] We know perfectly well that the United States has its own special foreign policy, which is perfectly in line with its vital interests and its short, medium and long-term goals. That is why we do not

want the United States to be a party to the negotiations, but rather to be an honest broker looking at the facts of the matters and standing by the UN resolutions and the restoration of rights in the occupied territory. So far though, the U.S. position cannot be described as that of an honest broker, but in spite of that, we are still asking them to be an honest broker in the peace talks.

[Zu'bi] If Lebanon and Israel do not reach an agreement on a total withdrawal from the border strip in the south and al-Biqā' al-Gharbi but Israel complies with all Syria's demands, would Syria sign a peace accord with Israel under these circumstances?

[Qaddurah] Never. Syria believes in the need for a comprehensive solution and joint Arab coordination and action. Whoever abides by this slogan and believes in it cannot go off on his own and sign without his brother, who has stood by him up to that point. Syria believes completely that the comprehensive peace it talks about is a peace that must prevail in southern Lebanon as well as in the total return of the Golan. If we did not accept separate, incomplete solutions and some people's infatuation with them before, then it is not fitting for us to accept them for ourselves now. Can anyone imagine Syria accepting a solution that did not restore that usurped land, given its special brotherly relations with Lebanon and the treaty of brotherhood, friendship, and cooperation?

[Zu'bi] Don't the separate peace treaties ratified with Israel and the efforts of some countries to establish early trade relations with Israel weaken the Syrian negotiating position in the peace process?

[Qaddurah] No, not at all. Syria's position and its strength are derived from its people. As for those who do other things before a just and comprehensive solution to the problem for all, that is their weakness, not Syria's.

Peace is a strategic goal for Syria and all the Arabs, but this peace must be balanced and equal. Peace must be for all, and not at the expense of any one party. Security must be for all, and not for one while excluding the others. There are conditions and specifications for peace, and if we do not meet them there is not peace.

[Zu'bi] Syria enjoys good relations with Iran. Is it currently playing a covert mediating role to solve the problem of the Emirates' three islands?

[Qaddurah] We have said that these issues must be resolved through dialogue and direct contacts. Syria is constantly working for the relations between Iran and the Arab countries, in particular the Gulf Cooperation Council states, to be based on good-neighborliness, mutual understanding, and joint action, to serve their mutual interests. The problem of the islands between

Iran and the Emirates has not yet reached the phase of mediation between them, and it should not. In my view, the solution will not require any mediation.

[Zu'bi] How does Syria view the entry of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory and its pursuit of members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party [PKK]?

[Qaddurah] It is a well-known fact that Syria supports the unity of Iraq—land and people—and allows no geographic change. As Turkey is a neighboring country with which we have long borders, it is in our interest to have a relationship marked by good-neighborliness in which neither side causes any harm. We never have and never will agree to any change in the makeup of any country in our region.

[Zu'bi] How are things going with Turkey in terms of sharing the waters of the Euphrates?

[Qaddurah] There are international laws and conventions governing issues where rivers flow through more than one country, and our right to the Euphrates waters is governed by these laws and conventions.

[Zu'bi] Is there any chance of conflict between Syria and neighboring countries which share rivers?

[Qaddurah] So far Syria has not suffered from any serious water problem, but the subject of river water is governed by international law. We do not want to violate anyone's rights, nor will we accept anyone violating our rights. I believe the water problem is a problem all the countries of the Levant will face in the future due to population growth and the increase in their food needs. This will require decisionmakers in the field of economics, water, and agriculture to adopt plans to use water resources with the utmost wisdom to give the best return and to be in line with future population growth.

[Zu'bi] It has been several years since the signing of the "Damascus Declaration," but as of today Arab citizens do not feel a clear sense of cooperation among the signatory countries. Why the ineffectiveness of this declaration?

[Qaddurah] I do not agree. Some time ago a meeting was held in Cairo of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states. Perhaps the Declaration has not realized the ambitions that were hoped for it, but at the same time it has not been abandoned. All it needs is to be taken more seriously—more responsibility, effectiveness, momentum, and action.

[Zu'bi] How do you presently view the violence and terrorism in the Arab nation in the name of religion?

[Qaddurah] First of all, I do not agree with you that there is religious terrorism. What is happening is terrorism

pure and simple, but it is hiding under the slogan of the True Religion. The Islamic religion absolutely cannot be stigmatized as terrorist. This is the religion that spread all throughout the world because of its sublime ethics: tolerance, love, brotherhood, and peace. It cannot be characterized as terrorist. However, those who try to use religious cover for political reasons have abandoned its spirit of tolerance and are using murder, destruction, and fire. They must be strongly confronted in order to protect society from their deeds. This is what Syria did at one point, though we were ridiculed by some Arab countries because we resisted these groups. Those same countries came to believe that when their countries were threatened by those hiding behind religion, Syria was right.

I believe it is the duty of people in the media to take up an important mission, which is to show the true face of the Islamic religion and resist attempts to distort it.

[Zu'bi] Are there new laws and legislation expected to be enacted in the field of the economy and investment in Syria to attract investors, like the law establishing the stock exchange, for example?

[Qaddurah] There is a group of laws with this objective in Syria. Law 10 is the most recent and is in line with the new demands of investment, but any economy must be affected by the economies of the world. Economic policy in Syria has been marked by economic pluralism since the 1970s and has opened the way to activity in the public, private, and mixed sectors. At one time the push into the public sector was due to the hesitation of local and foreign capital.

I can say that Syria is now seen to be an excellent place to invest, and it provides the two basic demands for all capital. The first is stability because Syria is—and this is no exaggeration—the most stable country in the region. The second is security because Syria is an oasis of security, as others acknowledge. This is in addition to raw materials and excellent skilled manpower.

[Zu'bi] But investors want quick returns.

[Qaddurah] We are now trying to provide advanced technological capabilities to Syrian banks to stay up to speed with banking developments and investors' needs and to deal with the mentality of advanced banks. There are those who seek the establishment of private banks, but we do not think the time has yet come to establish

those banks. We must take into consideration the fact that the economy will change over night, and if the laws and decisions are hasty and not fully considered, they could bring negative results like in other countries we know.

[Zu'bi] Is there any intention to enact new laws relating to agriculture?

[Qaddurah] So far, what we have is in line with our needs, and the agricultural laws now in effect have played a role in clear agricultural growth.

[Zu'bi] But there are those who say agricultural reform has idled expanses of land that were owned by individuals and which were reduced, with what remained being turned over to peasants who, in turn, were inclined away from agriculture by modern life, thus hurting the land. Is there no monitoring of peasant productivity on this land following the ban on the land's owners doing that?

[Qaddurah] These sorts of things have been in people's heads for a long time. This idea that the division of land leads to lower agricultural production is not true. Statistics show great agricultural growth. Last year, for example, Syria's cotton production hit a record of about 600,000 tons, and though we imported wheat, barley, and citrus fruit in 1984, we are now self-sufficient in all grains and export about 100,000 tons of our citrus surplus. In the 1950's, Syria's land used to feed its people; the population was then 5 million. Now 16 million people inhabit the same land, and this proves the success of our agricultural policy.

Even so, while we agree that everything accomplished by agricultural reform was not correct, most of it was.

[Zu'bi] In your move toward privatization, is there any intention to reduce the subsidies on some foodstuffs and services?

[Qaddurah] No, not at all. Our social policy is clear and unchanging. We provide about 12-13 billion Syrian pounds in subsidies to our people each year, and this support includes basic foodstuffs and services such as electricity, transport, health, and education.

[Zu'bi] There has been an increase in Syrian manpower in the Gulf region, and there is a mounting demand for this manpower. Is it possible to classify Syria as a labor-exporting country?

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[Qaddurah] We cannot say that Syria is a labor-exporting country because that classification is applied to countries whose investment fields are exhausted and which suffer from high unemployment. In Syria, however, the fields of investment and labor are still healthy.

[Zu'bi] Arab tourists who visit Syria complain of ill-treatment at the air and land entry points, where they

are deprived of the pleasure of tourism in the country. Is there any attention being paid to these gateways?

[Qaddurah] The reason for strict procedures at Syria's borders is to curb the smuggling that has harmed Syria's economy. The complaints of tourists and citizens about the land and air entry points were from before; things have improved greatly since then.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets Iranian Envoy, Discusses Ties

LD0507185395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani met Iranian envoy Mr. Ebrahimi. The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that at this meeting esteemed Ebrahimi handed over a message from Ayatollah Khamene'i to the country's esteemed president. Detailed talks were held on long-lasting ties and fraternal relations between the of Afghanistan and Iran. Both sides regarded the development and expansion of these ties as beneficial to stability and peace in the region.

Mr. Ebrahimi then expressed appreciation for the goodwill of the Islamic State's leadership regarding the consolidation of relations between the people and governments of the two countries, and he gave assurance to the Islamic State's leadership concerning Iran's cooperation in various fields.

Islamic Party Discusses Message From Iranian Leader

LD0607120595 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 6, IRNA — A leading member of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan here Wednesday [5 July] announced readiness to implement the context of the message issued by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to Afghan people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari announced the decision in a meeting with the participation of over 30 members of the Central Council and Supreme Council of the party who are currently in Kabul.

Akbari who is also the spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party noted that the message would have great positive effects on different Afghan groups as well as on people.

In his message, Ayatollah Khamene'i had exhorted belligerent Afghan factions to eschew from every act of hostility against each other.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari further called on Afghan ulema to convey the message to all Muslim people throughout the country and refrain from group conflicts and civil war.

The message of the leader of the Islamic revolution was read by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, the leader's representative in Afghan affairs, in a meeting also attended by thousands of people from western Kabul. The message received extensive support of the people.

Dostam Forces Reportedly Seize Positions in Salang

LD0607151595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A [government] position in the Esar area, North Salang, together with another major position and four posts in the Amatak region of Doshak, North Salang, were captured by the forces of the Coordination Council.

A report says that during the operation three PKs, 38 rockets and 58 boxes of ammunition for Kalashnikov and PK weapons were seized from the enemy. The source adds that 12 warmongers of the Kabul administration were captured. Several others were either killed or injured.

Several strong positions of the Kabul administration in North Salang were seized by the forces of the High Coordination Council [HCC]. An HCC source in North Salang reports to the Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that an unsuccessful attack of the Kabul administration forces was repulsed in North Salang by the brave mojahedin of the HCC. Soon after the defeat of this attack, a successful attack was launched on the enemy positions.

Clandestine Reports 'Mopping-Up' Operation in Samangan

LD0507202895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the High Coordination Council continue their mopping-up operation in Samangan Province.

A responsible source of the High Coordination Council reported to the correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom that the mopping-up operation, started two days ago in Ru-e Ab district, Samangan Province, against the Kabul administration's warmongers is still continuing. The spokesman said the Chambarak, Chahkhaki, and Zaldara areas of Ru-e Ab district were completely cleared of the Kabul administration fighters.

A famous commander of the Kabul administration, Mola Abdorrahman, together with his four guards and another commander, Qayumboi, together with two ringleaders, were killed during the operation, and a large quantity of their heavy and light weapons with ammunition were seized by the mojahedin as booty. The report adds that the mopping-up operation is fiercely continuing in the above district by the forces of the High Coordination Council.

India

Efforts Continue To Secure Release of Kashmir Tourists

BK0707032795 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, efforts are continuing to trace the four tourists from the United States and the United Kingdom who were kidnapped by militants in Pahalgam area on Tuesday [4 July]. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that the adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Satlani, is personally monitoring the operation to ensure the safe release of the foreign tourists. Two diplomats from the American and British embassies in Delhi are in constant touch with the administration. The kidnapping has evoked strong resentment among the people. All the abductors are reported to be foreign mercenaries. The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the abduction as un-Islamic and appealed to the abductors to release the tourists without any delay.

Meanwhile, 12 persons, including six militants were killed while the security forces apprehended 23 militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition in different search operations in the Kashmir valley during the last 36 hours. According to an official spokesman militant hurled a grenade on security forces patrol at the Superbazaar in Pulwama causing injuries to 10 civilians and two security personnel. The district screening committee of Srinagar has recommended the release of 34 detainees. The meeting held yesterday was presided over by the chairman of the committee Mr. B.B. Vyas.

Rao Blames 'Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorists'

BK0707092895 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that all possible efforts will be made to trace and secure the release of foreign tourists kidnapped by militants in Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Tirupati today, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao described the kidnapping of the four foreign tourists as a deliberate attempt by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists to create chaos both nationally and internationally. Expressing confidence to successfully overcome the troubles created by Pakistan in the subcontinent, he said we have to deal with the situation with restraint and calm. The prime minister also favored restraint against the unprovoked Pakistani rocket attacks in the Punch area.

Later, inaugurating the 12th All India Women's Conference in Hyderabad, Mr. Rao said top priority should be given to women's education in the country. Observing

that the country cannot progress without the overall development of women, he said the center is committed to women's welfare. He added that if we are not doing justice to women, we are betraying the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. The minister for state for women and child welfare, Mrs. Basva Rajeswari; union minister for information and broadcasting, Mrs. Girija Vyas; and delegates from various parts of the country also spoke.

Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to trace the tourists from the United States and the United Kingdom who were kidnapped by militants in Pahalgam area on Tuesday [4 July]. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that the adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Satlani, is personally monitoring the operation to ensure the safe release of the tourists. The American and British embassies in Delhi are in constant touch with the administration. The kidnapping has evoked strong resentment among the people. All the abductors are reported to be foreign mercenaries. The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the abduction as unislamic and appealed to the abductors to release the tourists without any delay.

Kashmir Governor Appeals to Kidnappers

BK0607160695 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all steps are being taken to secure the safe release of the remaining four foreign tourists kidnapped by militants from Pahalgam area. The security forces have launched a massive manhunt and the authorities are trying to establish contact with the militants. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has appealed to the kidnappers to set free the remaining captives immediately.

Our Jammu correspondent reports that the ambassadors of Britain and the United States are in Srinagar to convey their anxiety about the safety of their nationals. On Tuesday [4 July], the militants abducted eight foreign nationals and later released four including three women.

Meanwhile, troops foiled another Pakistani attempt to send across heavily armed militants. Pakistani troops also fired rockets on a hospital injuring seven patients in Punch city. Official sources said that the attack took place last night and the injured included five women. A ward was also damaged. One more rocket fell in the Shankar Mohalla of the city but caused no damage. Pakistani troops also fired at (Simbal) and (Mangral) posts on Indo-Pak international border in Ranbirsinghpura sector. For the fourth day, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing while the laborers were engaged in fencing work.

Muslim 'Militants' Abduct 4 Journalists in Kashmir

BK0707092395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0851 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, July 7 (AFP) — Muslim militants raided two newspaper offices in the Kashmir Valley and abducted four journalists late Thursday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday.

Gunmen first barged into the office of an Urdu-language newspaper "Nida-e-Mashriq" and dragged away the editor Abdul Rashid Shah, the news agency said.

Later, they went to the office of English newspaper "Greater Kashmir" and asked the chief editor to accompany them, saying their commander wanted to talk to him.

When the editor resisted, the militants pounced on three other journalists — Bashir Manzar, Manzoor Qazi and Shafat Ahmad Matoo — and took them away in a van, PTI said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the abductions, which came two days after Muslim rebels seized two British and two American tourists from a tourist resort in the troubled state of Kashmir.

No further details were immediately available.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in a bloody Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir since 1989.

Further on Abduction of Journalists

BK0707120095 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1135 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants abducted four journalists, including two editors of a local daily, from their office in Pratap Park enclave in Srinagar last night. The abduction has come close on the heels of Tuesday's abduction of four foreign tourists from Pahalgam. Militants along with captives are reported to have moved toward the western hilly areas of Pahalgam.

Two diplomats of the UK and U.S. embassies who are camping at Srinagar are in constant touch with the state authorities for the safe return of the tourists. The adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Satlani, is personally supervising the efforts to trace out the abducted tourists. Search parties have been sent in different directions. Private agencies and local people have also been involved in the search.

The United States has said that it is working closely with the Indian Government to secure the release of four tourists in Jammu and Kashmir. The kidnapped include two Americans.

Rao: Kashmir May Not Be 'Issue' for Next Elections

BK0607132595 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that Kashmir may not be an issue by the time the next Lok Sabha elections are held. Addressing a news conference at Nandial in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh this evening, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that everything is expected to be normal by that time in Jammu and Kashmir. He was responding to a question on the recent statement made by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president that his party would make Kashmir an issue in the next general elections.

Asked for his reaction on the suggestion of formation of a national government to be headed by him, the prime minister said that it is not clear what kind of initiative Mr. Rama Krishna Hegde wants him to take.

Article Views Rao, U.S. Stands on Kashmir

BK0707084195 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
3 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Neerja Chowdhury: "For PM, It's a High Risk Strategy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Frank Wisner's four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir last week is an important straw indicating which way the wind may be blowing in the troubled State.

The overt noises made by the US ambassador in India show a subtle shift in the American stand on Kashmir. The US which was questioning Kashmir's accession to India less than two years ago, is today urging the militants to let bygones be bygones and seize this opportunity to shun violence, participate in the polls in the State as a first step towards working out a suitable arrangement between the State and the Centre, and open dialogue with Delhi.

The US has repeatedly offered to mediate in Kashmir in the past, hoping to swing a Camp David between India and Pakistan. But last week Wisner made it quite clear that his country had no such intentions.

The difference can be discerned in the nuances. It is no secret that the militants in Jammu and Kashmir had got an impetus because of the support of the US and Western nations. Today the emissary of the sole Super Power goes to the Valley personally to try an prevail upon the militants to take part in the coming elections.

The suave diplomat, who is rated highly in the US establishment, is careful about Indian sensitivities, though

persuading the militants to abjure violence or restraining Benazir Bhutto's Government from obstructing the political process in the State are after all nothing but a part of a mediatory effort. His stance has come as a disappointment to the militants who read this to mean that the US had come to accept that India would never give up Kashmir and that the Kashmiris should negotiate the best possible arrangement within that framework.

The US stand may have shifted for a variety of reasons and many officials in the Indian Government feel that the process started with the Prime Minister's meeting with Bill Clinton in Washington last year.

Delhi's policy of transparency in Kashmir - the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission and the recent visit of its chairman R B Mishra to the US, allowing teams of foreign envoys to the State, and the MoU with the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit detention centres - have helped make international opinion less hostile.

South Block would like to believe that the US compulsions of keeping Islamabad on its right side may not be as compelling as they were a few years ago and the US may move towards an equidistant policy for both the countries.

The end of the Afghan war and the dismemberment of the Soviet Union have created a new situation, though Washington still needs a counterfoil to Iran. In the past, the US used the good offices of Pakistan to establish a relationship with China which is no longer necessary.

Beijing's tough responses to Washington's attempts at getting it to accept democratic reforms and the problems it is currently facing with China recalling the Taiwan President for a private visit, many in the US feel that the market offered by India may be more appealing and stable.

The US also realises that fatigue is setting in in the Valley after so many years of insurgent war and Mr Wisner is believed to have commented about this after his visit to Kashmir.

The mood had altered in the state, though Charar Sharif constituted a set back. Before the incident the people had told the correspondents who had visited the Valley that they do not mind the Army taking them at gun-point to vote, for this would give them an alibi vis-a-vis the terrorists that they had no choice but to cast their vote.

In hard political terms - there is no such things as a free lunch - Mr Wisner may well be making things easy for Mr Narasimha Rao. The Americans may feel that Rao is the best horse to back in 1996 and this feeling may get

reinforced if the Maharashtra Government goes ahead with its decision to scrap the Enron project.

The US strategy in Kashmir is after all linked to its wider relationship with India. Washington has been pushing for the opening up of the power, telecom, banking, hydrocarbon sectors which could mean gains of hundreds of billions of dollars in the years to come. And Rao Government is facilitating all this, with the favourable noises made by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr Sharad Pawar, Mr Salve and Mr Chidambaram underscoring this relationship.

The stand of the Government has also undergone a change in the last year having already promised 'autonomy short of Azadi' in Parliament, when only till the other day the Government kept insisting that autonomy would only be negotiated with an elected government after polls. It was not prepared to consider going back to the pre-1953 or even the 1975 position.

Today the Government is believed to be working on a package. It may elaborate on PM's 'autonomy' statement before the notification of elections. It is thinking of going back to the essence of the 1975 Beg-Parthasarthy Accord for the restoration of autonomy. That it had been announced in Parliament by Indira Gandhi at the time could save Mr Rao from critics in the party.

Among other things, the accord had promised review of all Central laws imposed on Kashmir after 1953. That Sheikh Abdullah and his team did little about it after they assumed power is a different story. The Kashmiris have been unhappy about the erosion of Article 370 over the years and even Dr Farooq Abdullah has made the participation of National Conference in the elections contingent on the announcement of a package.

Today Mr Narasimha Rao is serious about elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir elections is a card Mr Rao may have up his sleeve for the 1996 Lok Sabha polls. If he manages to install a popular government in Srinagar this winter, it would be the biggest achievement of his tenure. It would reinforce his image as a problem solver and could give the Congress the kind of a poll push it is looking for. Mr Rao may also hope for a softening of the Muslims towards the Congress.

The Government's present thinking is to hold the poll in a staggered fashion, first in Jammu and Ladakh and then in the Valley. It is felt that the State Assembly can be constituted even if elections cannot be held in a few constituencies, for, after all there is also a Constitutional provision for 25 seats from PoK [Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir] which are lying vacant.

Besides the danger of BJP using the grant of autonomy as an election issue, the things are not so simple as they may seem on the other count too.

Pakistan can be expected to do all it can to disrupt the poll process in Jammu and Kashmir. Benazir Bhutto, on the mat for her failure to control the situation in Sindh, would look even more for deflective ploys and she has to keep the Army and the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] on her right side. Besides the US, there different Islamic influences at work in the Valley on the groups.

An abysmally low turnout in the Valley could be projected as a referendum in reverse and many apprehend that this could make a case for the implementation of the Dixon Plan that the US had pushed in the past and for the severance of the Valley, which after all is only one 10th of the State's territory .

Thus, while the Americans stand to gain through an election in Jammu and Kashmir either way, for Rao it is a high risk strategy.

'Sources' Report U.S. in Favor of Kashmir Elections

BK0607144495 *Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD*
in English 29 Jun 95 p 7

[Report by United News of India]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The "successful" visit of United States ambassador Frank Wisner to Jammu and Kashmir has signalled that the United States was in favor of holding elections in the state and would not support anyone associated with "gun or violence."

Official sources, expressing "great satisfaction" over the visit of Wisner termed his four-day visit to the state as a "positive trend" paving the way for the installation of a democratically elected government.

The tone and tenor of Wisner's speech during the visit has disappointed many secessionist leaders and elements and militant organizations are still to come to terms with the positive change in the U.S. stand toward holding of elections and calling upon all to participate in them, they said.

Sources said the visiting dignitary during his talks with the All-Party Hurriyat Conference leaders, including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Abdul Gani Lone, Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) president Yaseen Malik, reportedly told them that they had to enter into a dialogue and take part in the elections to solve the current impasse in the situation and save the state from further disaster.

Welcoming the stand taken by the U.S. administration that it would not mediate between India and Pakistan

to solve the issue, sources were of the view that this positive attitude would go a long way in convincing the hardcore elements and their leaders that they have to come to the negotiating table to find a solution to the present problem.

Political analysts say that the stand advocated by the United States has come as a "shock" somehow for Pakistan and its pro- militant groups in the valley who were looking forward to U.S. support and pressure to force the Indian government into conceding their demand for self-determination.

The remarks by Wisner about the Kashmir dispute, sources said, also marked a change of American attitude.

He had said that the question of accession of Kashmir to India, the question of autonomy to the state and other such relevant issues should be put in the past and the people of the state should take part in dialogue and should work for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Official circles attach great importance to the visiting dignitary's remarks on grabbing the opportunity for holding a positive dialogue under the shadow of the Simla agreement.

Sources said that the visit by the dignitary to the Kashmiri Pandit [Hindu] migrant camps and his queries about their living conditions and wellbeing showed that America was concerned over the exodus of the large number of the minority community people from the valley under force of "gun and violence" and wanted their honorable return to the state.

Sources said some of the main features that have emerged from Wisner's visit were that there was a need for close interaction and dialogue between various groups inside the state to arrive at a consensus and tide over their differences.

Efforts should also be made by various parties and factions to bridge the gap between various communities and a common program had to be chalked out for dialogue between the two countries in bringing peace to the strife-torn valley.

The U.S. ambassador was also shown evidence about the involvement of Pakistan in supporting terrorism in the Kashmir valley and had remarked that his country was against export of any kind of transborder terrorism.

Another significant change in the attitude of the U.S. Administration were the remarks by Wisner about the greater concern of the Indian government over the human rights violations and their prevention by extending the powers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to Jammu and Kashmir.

This has been a consistent point of criticism by various countries including the U.S. in the past.

Editorial Criticizes 'Bizarre' U.S. Move on Pakistan
BK0707045895 Delhi THE PIONEER in English
1 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "A Bizarre Claim by the U.S."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Administration's reluctance to designate Pakistan as a terrorist state is no longer surprising. What, however, does not cease to amaze is its ingenuity in fobbing off India's attempts to convince policy-makers in Washington about the need to include Pakistan in the list of countries that sponsor trans-border terrorism. If earlier the US State Department defended its decision to ignore the evidence provided by India by arguing that branding Pakistan a terrorist state would work against the elected Government in Islamabad—an argument that has been conveniently ignored while branding others like Iran and Iraq—it has now come up with the bizarre explanation that such action would amount to taking sides in the Kashmir issue. This is nothing but balderdash and deserves to be ridiculed.

Indeed, it would appear that the US is willing to take note of a regime's overt or covert links with terrorist organisations only if this poses a threat to American interests. In other words, if Pakistan's support for terrorist groups had posed a law and order problem in the US, the State Department would have been prompt in denouncing the Government in Islamabad. Nothing else explains why proof of Pakistan's involvement in fomenting trouble in Jammu and Kashmir which has been documented and presented to the US time and again by India should be ignored. It is also no mystery as to why Pakistan was taken off the watch list of terrorist states, despite the fact that several State Department officials have frequently conceded that Islamabad does have a finger in the Kashmir pie.

True, India does not really require an American certificate to substantiate its claim. But at the same time, American intransigence and comments like those expressed recently by a State Department official have proved advantageous for Pakistan—Islamabad has not missed an opportunity to flaunt Washington's apparent bias before the international community to plead its innocence. Also, such statements have provided Ms Benazir Bhutto the moral support which she so desperately needs for survival at home. Seen in this context, Washington's claim that it does not want to take sides in the Kashmir issue makes little or no sense. For, if its stated and unstated policies help Pakistan in its anti-India crusade, then it does amount to taking sides: The only dif-

ference is that instead of taking sides with India, it is doing so with Pakistan. At least this is the impression that is conveyed repeatedly by State Department officials who seem to have a definite agenda that militates against declared policy on Kashmir.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in New Delhi

BK0507114895 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a two-day visit. During his talks in the capital, the two sides will review the progress of economic cooperation between India and Russia. Mr. Yarov will also exchange views on political and other developments in Central Asia and other regions.

Talks Held To Boost Bilateral Trade

BK0607085795 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Russia are set to achieve the bilateral trade target of 5,000 crore rupees during the current financial year. This would be double the trade turnover registered in 1993-94. Steps to give a fillip to bilateral trade was the focus of the delegation-level talks in New Delhi today. The visiting Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, led the Russian side. The Indian side was led by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

Russia announced its decision to modernize the Novorossisk Port with Indian assistance. The Russian deputy prime minister later met the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the all round progress in Indo-Russian relations. He assured Mr. Yarov that India would do everything possible to maintain and strengthen bilateral cooperation. Mr. Yarov said mutual cooperation in economic and commercial fields has grown in recent years.

Joint Commission Meeting Detailed

BK0607091595 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information
Service in English 1457 GMT 5 Jul 95

["Spokesman's Statement" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of the co-chairmen of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission was held today. The Russian side was headed by the deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy F. Yarov, and the Indian side, by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. The two sides reviewed the progress

made in various sectors since the first meeting of the joint commission in Moscow last September. They also reviewed the schedule of meetings of the various working groups and subgroups of the joint commission.

External Affairs Minister said that the joint commission is a principal vehicle for monitoring our cooperation across the broad spectrum of our relations, as well as for the implementation of the decisions taken at the highest level between the two countries. He was gratified that the joint commission and its working groups have become functional and active. On the substantive side, External Affairs Minister said that Indo-Russian trade had registered an increase of 44 [word indistinct] and crossed rupees 4,100 crore in 1994-95, and was well on the way to meeting the target of rupees 5,000 crore by 1995-96 set by the co-chairmen when they met a year ago.

Some of the subjects discussed:-

- a) Allocation of funds for the Novorossisk Port modernization project for which Indian firms had an interest in participation for which the Russian side had earmarked rupee equivalent to U.S. \$250 million.
- b) Identification of oil fields in Russia for development by ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission].
- c) Russian interest in participation in the modernization and upgradation of power projects, including the Tehri hydro-power project.
- d) Cooperation in the field of science and technology.
- e) Cooperation in the field of culture.

External Affairs Minister concluded saying that the Indo-Russian relations have been consolidated and the political will of the leadership of the two countries are being translated into cooperation in specific sectors in a wide-ranging and multi-faceted manner. He said that Indo-Russian relations are moving on the right track.

The discussions were held in a very cordial and business like atmosphere and the two sides agreed that officers of the various departments concerned would discuss further the issues that came up during this meeting and sort them out before the next meeting of the inter-governmental committee.

New Delhi

July 5, 1995

Joint Venture Projects Announced

BK0707025095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Russia have decided to enter into five new joint venture projects. Two of

these will be in Russia and the other three will be in India. This was announced by the visiting deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, at a news conference in New Delhi today. He said Russia will invest four billion rupees in such joint projects this year out of the debt repayment it receives from India.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who was also present said a supplement to the seven year old agreement between the former Soviet Union and India on cooperation for the construction of a nuclear power plant in the country is also being finalized. Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. Yarov, the cochairmen of the Russia-India intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation, have also signed a protocol to boost bilateral economic ties.

Russia says any sale of arms to Pakistan would be possible only after India's consent. A presidential spokesman said in Moscow that India is a very serious strategic partner of Russia. Mr. (Boris Cruzik), presidential adviser on foreign defense cooperation, was talking to newsmen in the Russian capital today.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Message for President

JN0607113995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 6 Jul (INA)—Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Indian President and Minister of Transport and Communications Shankar Dayal Sharma, arrived here today.

The personal envoy of his excellency the president is carrying a message to the Indian president on the ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and India and regional and international developments.

The personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is scheduled to meet Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma later today. He will also meet with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Radioactive Leak From Tarapur Atomic Plant Contained

BK0607132795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board [AERB] chairman, Mr. Gopala Krishnan, has said that there is absolutely no danger to anyone within or outside the atomic plant area at Tarapur. Speaking to our Bombay correspondent this afternoon, he said that the radioactive leak from the plant has been fully contained. About 3.5 tons of contaminated soil within the

plant area has been removed and kept for further processing before disposal. Mr. Gopala Krishnan said that an AERB safety committee for waste management facility is inquiring into the causes of the leakage. In the meantime, the waste immobilization plant from which a small amount of about 100 millicurie of radio activity had leaked out last month has been closed down.

Commerce Minister Urges More Investment

95AS0456A Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN
in English 14 May 95 p 13

[Unattributed article: "Era of Super Profits Muse End: Chidambaram; Need for Fiscal Prudence Stressed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taking a dig at the opponents of foreign investment, Mr P. Chidambaram, the Union Commerce Minister, said in Calcutta on Saturday that last year China, which has been achieving a GDP [gross domestic product] growth of more than 10 per cent for the past few years, got direct foreign investment worth \$33 billion while India, in the same period got only \$1 billion.

Saying that one could not, on the one hand, praise China's progress and, on the other, oppose foreign investment, Mr Chidambaram said, in a lighter vein, that "such criticism should be aired in Beijing."

Speaking at a meeting organized by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, the Union Minister lamented the fact that the India's per capita income was only \$300 while countries like Thailand had a per capita of \$6,000 and Mauritius \$3,000. He added that to increase the per capita to a significant extent, a quantum jump in investment was needed.

The savings rate in the country was between 21 and 22 per cent. This translated to an investment level of around 22 per cent, the Minister observed. With such an investment level, the GDP growth rate would be around only six per cent.

Mr Chidambaram observed that to hit a growth rate of around 10 per cent, the country needed an investment level of 30 per cent. This would entail a savings rate of 28 per cent.

Stating that China's savings rate was 35 per cent, he added that the gap in local investment in India could only be supplemented by foreign money.

According to the Minister, many people were under the impression that the structural adjustment programme in the economy was complete or that the \$26.2 billion worth of foreign exchange reserves were the profits of India Incorporated whose chairman was Mr P.V.

Narasimha Rao and the chief executive officer, Dr Manmohan Singh.

These assumptions were totally wrong and the need of the hour was to return to the path of fiscal prudence and the era of super profits and super dividends had to end, according to the Minister.

In this context, he observed that the country could learn important lessons from the experience of the Asian Tigers.

According to Mr Chidambaram, the three important lessons are:

—Inflation had to be kept low at all cost as this was one of the most regressive forms of hidden taxation. The Minister felt that controlling inflation was not just the responsibility of the Finance Minister or the Government. It was also the responsibility of the industry to ensure that there was no indiscriminate increase in prices.

—The market should be kept open and competitive. Mr Chidambaram observed that the Indian market was not yet fully competitive and, in various important areas, monopolies and oligopolies ruled the roost. More competition was the need of the hour, according to the Minister.

—The Indian economy must remain open and friendly to foreign investment.

Talking of the quantum of foreign investment needed in the country, Mr Chidambaram highlighted the requirements of a few infrastructure areas. They are:

—**Power:** The power sector needed investments to the tune of Rs 30,000 crores every year for the next 10 years so that the country could become self-sufficient.

—**Telecom:** At present, the country had an average of nine telephones per 1,000 people in the country. In order to bring that number to just 45 telephones per 1,000, the telecom sector needed investment to the tune of Rs 260,000 crores. This was excluding investment required in such value added services like paging and cellular phones.

—**Roads:** The country had 11,000 km of roads that have been designated as National Highways. According to Mr Chidambaram, a country of India's size should have at least 100,000 km of National Highways. The per kilometre cost of building a world class four-lane highway with the necessary rest stations and lighting would come to around Rs 1 crore. To upgrade the existing roadways Rs 11,000 crores would have to be spent. To build 100,000 km of National Highways, Rs 100,000 crores would be needed.

—**Ports:** Mr Chidambaram claimed that the last financial year's export growth rate could easily have touched 20 per cent (instead of the 18.27 per cent) if the ports had been able to handle rice that was ready for export.

He added that in March Rs 10,000 crores of exports were done and if this level could have been maintained for the whole year, then the export growth would have been 36 per cent.

The port facilities were growing at a rate of eight per cent. With this rate it would be impossible to maintain a export growth of 20 per cent. The Minister felt that Rs 10,000 crores would have to be invested in upgrading and building new port facilities.

Iran

Rafsanjani: Economy Improved After U.S. Sanctions

LD0707110695 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the United States' attempt to cover up its domestic problems and to isolate Iran as a failed plot which achieved nothing but failure for the U.S. statesmen.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting Friday imam of Tehran, who preached the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran today, said: Right from the start we were aware of this aggressive plot by Washington which was designed to cause opposition to the government among the Iranian people and lead them to despair. We were watching their actions very closely. Fortunately, this plot failed during its very first moves and the U.S. statesmen did not achieve any of their objectives.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the U.S. Government undertook this plot in order to cover up domestic difficulties and problems — including the all-encompassing corruption, insecurity, economic recession, the fragile state of society, and difficulties in foreign policy. He stressed: None of their aims, which were to separate the Iranian people from the government and to create economic pressure, were realized. The world discovered that the U.S. Administration, which flies the flag of the new world order, is a very illogical, bullying, interfering, and oppressive administration. It is responsible for the existing tension in the world more than any other country and proving this fact is, in itself, a great achievement.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran said: The fact is, and this is not an exaggeration, that following the U.S. boycott of Iran, conditions in our country greatly

improved. The people prepared themselves more than ever before in order to confront an enemy which is pointing its sword openly toward this nation. The fact is that the Iran of today cannot be boycotted, it will not surrender. The people are ready to give up their lives for their faith and beliefs and the economic steps of recent years guaranteed the future of the nation.

The president pointed to the warm welcome given to the country's officials by the people, for example the enthusiastic welcome given to him by the people of East Azarbayjan province during his recent trip there. He said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] We do not exaggerate in the slightest when we say that following the U.S. boycott, our economy improved. We know what we are talking about when we say this. The national solidarity that we sought, the national unity that we sought — and the Americans wanted the exact opposite, they wanted to destroy our unity — became stronger, our solidarity was strengthened from the very first moment of the boycott. We gave an illustration of this strengthened unity to the world in our visit to Azarbayjan.

Not that this was new for us: We see such scenes every day. We have contacts with the people. I have been to Kermanshah during the past few months, I have been to Sistan va Baluchestan province, Khuzestan province, and all of these areas are border provinces. I shall not mention my other trips because people may have forgotten them now, but these scenes cannot be forgotten that easily.

In our last trip, which was to Azarbayjan, the people showed their solidarity, their love for the system and the revolution. If the Americans see just 10 percent of what we saw, they will conclude that this society is united. And it is so strong, our national unity and solidarity is so strong, that these plots to weaken and destroy the economy will not lead to anything but the people becoming more vigilant.

In any case, as an official who is aware of the situation of the people, I have to thank this vigilant, aware, and alert people from the bottom of my heart. Whenever they feel the slightest plot being hatched by the enemy, they enter the arena with more vigilance and courage. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges U.S. To 'Rectify Attitude'

NC0607121295 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
4 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Must Rectify Its Attitude Toward Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a live interview with Cable News Network, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on

U.S. policymakers to rectify their understanding of Iran in order to pave the way for a rapprochement.

One of the basic steps which the United States must take in this direction is that the U.S. officials should distance themselves from the Zionist anti-Iran propaganda, since such propaganda misleads them into making irrational decisions.

If American officials bid farewell to the slanted Zionist anti-Iran propaganda, other Iranian demands will be automatically met. There will be no more lies that Iran wants a nuclear bomb, no rumors that Iran sponsors terrorism, and no fabrication that Iran wants to undermine the Middle East peace process.

If there are no baseless charges against Iran, and if American policymakers are given facts free from Zionist propaganda, then Iran's conditions for a rapprochement with the United States will be met.

Indeed, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, assured that Iran is not dependent on U.S.-made equipment, and speaking from a position of strength, has said that Iran's doors are open to the U.S.

Once again President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent the ball to the U.S. court. The Americans should not miss this opportunity.

U.S. Called To Resort to 'Pragmatic' Policies

NC0607123895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Jul 95 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Can No More Call the Shots"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nowadays, playing Iran's card has become customary in the U.S. domestic as well as foreign policies. Whether it is the question of elections or any other issue which requires horse trading between the Republicans and the Democrats, Iran's card is played by both the parties.

Although this policy has paid off in U.S. domestic affairs, it has backfired at international level. Still the policy-makers in the White House, the Congress, and the Senate seem to be too dull to lash a dead horse time and again.

Philip Wilcox, State Coordinator for Counter-terrorism, in a House hearing, Thursday [29 June], urged other nations to join the U.S. trade embargo against Iran to pressure Tehran to change its policies.

Probably Mr. Wilcox has forgotten that Rambo Clinton failed to persuade Russian President Boris Yeltsin to abandon the project to help Iran build a nuclear power station at Bushehr during the summit talks in May.

Wilcox should be reminded that on the same day he urged other countries to follow U.S. toes [as published] in imposing sanctions on Iran, Russia's Energy Minister, Viktor Mikhailov, announced, "Russian will build the nuclear power station" in Iran.

Not only Wilcox, but perhaps Al Gore also suffers from Alzheimer's disease. In his talks with the Russian officials Al Gore treaded Clinton's footsteps. Though he spared no effort to convince Russia to stop nuclear cooperation with Iran, he did not succeed in persuading the Russians to give in to the U.S. bullying and finally he received a big "No" from Russia.

The world community, specially the developing countries, natural allies of an independent Russia, must laud the Russian officials for their firm stance and independence vis-a-vis the U.S. blackmail.

Somebody should somehow make Uncle Sam understand that the world is no more a unipolar one. Washington can no more call the shots in the international arena, therefore, instead of wishful thinking, the White House must resort to pragmatic policies and stop playing Iran's card in every occasion. It won't work any more. The U.S. officials, therefore, had better mind their own business instead of poking their nose in every country's affairs.

Jewish Connection Alleged in U.S. Embargo

95AE0029A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
30 Apr 95 pp 44-45

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali Salih: "Details of U.S. Boycott of Iranian Oil and Its Connection With Jewish Congress; State Department Rejects Total and Comprehensive Boycott; U.S. Firms Purchased \$4 Billion Worth of Iranian Oil Last Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last month, the U.S. Administration prohibited U.S. oil companies from aiding Iran. Conoco was forced to cancel an agreement (for \$1 billion) it had concluded with Tehran to drill for oil in the Gulf water. The prohibition provoked controversy in the United States over two issues: First, is this a faulty or sound decision? Americans have split between supporter and opponent, with the opposition led by the oil companies and supporters of corporations' freedom. The second issue was: Is the administration entitled to prohibit corporations from trading with any country? Are corporations entitled [presumably meaning required] to take the U.S. national security interest into consideration?

THE WASHINGTON POST has summed up the controversy over the first point, expressing the following opinions:

—First, there is no doubt that Iran is a country that supports terrorism and that it must be opposed.

—Second, cancellation of the agreement with Conoco will be in the interest of French and German firms.

—Third, there is contradiction between punishing Iran and supporting the "terrorist" North Korea with oil.

—Fourth, there is contradiction between boycotting Iran and trading with China, which violates all human rights.

A week after President Bill Clinton made his decision, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a session to debate the imposition of further sanctions against Iran. Summing up the session, THE NEW YORK TIMES said, "A heated debate took place between supporters and opponents. The general climate was that a total and comprehensive boycott is not that easy, even though all parties agreed on continued opposition to Iran's policies."

It is to be noted that the U.S. State Department itself refused to support a total and comprehensive boycott. Assistant Secretary Peter Tartoff has said, "If we make a decision separately, we will harm our interest more than we will harm Iran's interests. Therefore, there has to be agreement with the allied industrial states. But these states will not agree with us on this issue."

These words angered Senator Faircloth d'Amato, a Republican from North Carolina [name and title as published], who said, "Is it difficult for us to defeat Iran? Why not annihilate them completely?" The assistant secretary responded, "The issue is complex. It is not this easy."

He added, "Well, you have canceled Conoco's oil agreement with Iran. The next step is to halt the purchase of Iranian oil and to suspend any joint investments between U.S. corporations and the Iranian Government."

Brongman Family Role

THE WASHINGTON POST published the story of the Brongman family role in the decision to cancel Conoco's oil agreement with Iran. Edgar Brongman, his brother Charles Brongman, and his son Edgar Brongman Jr. form a U.S.-Canadian family whose wealth is estimated at billions of dollars. Most of this wealth has come from distilling and selling whiskey and other kinds of alcohol. The family owns one-quarter Dupont's shares, and Dupont owns Conoco.

The Brongman family dominates the World Jewish Congress and defends Israel to no end. When President George Bush was in power in 1991, he turned down Israel's request for a \$10-billion loan guarantee. The

Brongman family led a campaign against Bush, and he complained about it to the press openly.

The Brongman family conduct has annoyed Conoco and the other U.S. oil firms. But Conoco does not have the courage to criticize Israel or the World Jewish Congress.

U.S. firms' opposition to cancellation of the agreement emanates more from economic considerations than from political considerations. This agreement is valued at more than \$1 billion, and it was hoped that it would constitute the first step toward the return of U.S. corporations to Iran directly and openly. They abandoned this market when the shah of Iran was toppled in 1979.

Despite the shah's fall, there have been trade transactions, especially in the oil area, between the two countries. During former President Ronald Reagan's administration, these transactions persisted in spite of the official boycott. President Reagan himself was not opposed to improving relations with Iran. Rather, Iran was the party that rejected such improvement. An example of this fact is the Irangate (the secret dispatch of U.S. weapons to Iran on the instructions of Reagan himself).

During the last year of his administration and after exposure of the Irangate scandal and Iran's refusal to release the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, Reagan ordered a halt to the import of Iranian oil. But this presidential decree left a "premeditated" gap that permitted U.S. firms to purchase Iranian oil and to sell it to the international markets, provided that they did not ship it to the United States.

Last year, Iran exported \$13 billion worth of oil, of which U.S. firms purchased the equivalent of \$[figure missing] billion (nearly one-fourth). This is why Conoco's agreement with Iran violated no law, as long as Conoco did not ship the Iranian oil to the United States.

The same thing has happened with the agreement to utilize Azerbaijan's oil, in which a number of countries, including Iran, and a number of U.S. firms, are partners. An agreement to utilize Turkmenistan's gas with U.S. and Iranian participation and the participation of others is on the way.

Despite the cancellation of Conoco's agreement with Iran, nobody can slight the power of the oil companies' lobby. Perhaps this is why Senator d'Amato and his allies will not succeed in imposing a total and comprehensive boycott against Iranian oil or to prevent U.S. oil corporations from taking part in international investments in which Iran is included (such as Azerbaijan's oil and the Turkmenistan gas pipeline).

The Turkmenistan gas pipeline has to pass through Iran. This is why U.S. oil corporations have to cooperate with Iran and why it is not surprising that these corporations turned to former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to help them gain the support of current U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

TIME, a U.S. magazine, has said that Haig is working sincerely for the success of this project. The paradox is that Haig is the one who led the campaign to boycott Iran when he was secretary of state. But even the current secretary of state is connected with oil corporations through the law office in which he worked before he became secretary.

Weapons Firms

The Americans will continue to argue forever over the line that separates serving the interest of U.S. corporations from serving the U.S. national interest. Many believe that there is no distinction between the two. This is evident in the U.S. oil corporations' determination not to shut the door completely in the face of cooperation with Iran. It is also evident in the determination of U.S. weapons firms to sell the largest amount of weapons possible, despite the declared U.S. policy to curtail such sales. If the oil companies' lobby in the congress is powerful, then the weapons firms' lobby is no less powerful.

Even though the cold war and the military confrontation with the Soviet Union has ended, the U.S. defense budget has decreased only slightly. It is no secret that U.S. arms manufacturing firms are behind the fact. What is more, these firms pressure the U.S. Administration to open new foreign markets to make up for losses emanating from the end of the cold war.

U.S. weapons firms have begun to export to East European countries that were the "enemy" during the cold war years, such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and others, not to mention the new Central Asia republics: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and others.

Under pressure from weapons firms, President Clinton was compelled last month to abolish a law prohibiting the sale of sophisticated U.S. military aircraft to East European and Central Asian countries. It is no secret that weapons firms support the accession of a number of East European countries to NATO for a number of reasons, one of which is to permit the sale of sophisticated weapons to these countries that will become an "ally."

Whether the purpose is to open up to Iran or to East European countries, the U.S. corporations' "interests" may not agree with the "principles" of the U.S. foreign policy. However, serving the "U.S. interests" has been

and will continue to be one of the most important objectives of the U.S. Administration.

Larijani: Nation Has Right To Use Nuclear Technology

NC0607121795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
2 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Sheyda Naseri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — "Iran's stance on using nuclear power is very clear", said the head of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission, Mohammad-Javad Larijani, in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

"Iran's policy is based on two main principles: First, the right of our nation to have access to energy resources, in light of the increasing population of our country. Due to limited resources of energy and in order to save oil and gas for the security of future generations, we are determined to implement longterm projects on power plants," he said.

Secondly, our activities on nuclear power are transparent. We are a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and we cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Nuclear power will not bring security to our country; the Islamic Republic of Iran is powerful enough in the region, he said.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance towards the new government of Qatar, Larijani said that the recent shift in power is due to internal affairs; we hope this development brings peace and security to the region and the world.

"Our relations with Qatar has always been friendly; we have several engineering projects there; the future of Iran-Qatar relations is bright," he added.

Iran's relations with Qatar are different from Iraq's. All of the countries of the region have good diplomatic and economic relations with Iran, while Iraq has been an aggressor to her neighboring countries.

Nuclear Project, U.S.-Russian Factors Analyzed

95AE0045A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 8, 9 Jun 95

[8 Jun 95, p 8]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—On the eve of the Russian-U.S. summit between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton on 9 May, during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism, an official high-level Russian division prepared a report for

the Russian leadership on one of the most important issues of the summit. This was the nuclear deal concluded between Moscow and Tehran and its effect on the Iranian nuclear program. AL-SHARQ has obtained this report, which defined the Kremlin's position on this issue during the talks between Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton. Observers have described these talks as the most difficult in the history of the relations between the two countries since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In view of the importance of this report, which constitutes one of the theoretical bases in the formulation of Moscow's position on relations with Tehran, AL-SHARQ will publish it in two parts today and tomorrow. The first part deals with internal Iranian affairs and the motives of the American position. The second part deals with the possible directions in U.S. policy and Russia's interests in all these things. The report says:

The United States has recently intensified its propaganda campaign against Iran's nuclear program, focusing on the idea that this program contradicts the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. The first thing one notices here is that the United States is playing a similar role to the one it played during the campaign against North Korea. It started by accusing North Korea of violating the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. This was followed by a Korean counter-reaction. The United States exploited the situation to ensure its interests in the area and establish contacts with a traditional adversary. Actually, similarity exists in the U.S. behavior in both cases. The political leadership is using the same policy. It uses states that are called "blacklisted" as a factor to ensure its local and international interests. Therefore, the present propaganda campaign possibly has very little connection with the issue of nuclear nonproliferation. The U.S. policy is probably considered part of a broader political plan, which not only affects the situation in the area but also aims to solve a number of problems (for the benefit of the United States, of course) that could emerge during the establishment of a new international relations' order. This demands focusing on the importance of the Middle East to make the economic and social systems in most countries of the capitalist world move normally and steadily. Questions have been raised about:

- The real goals the United States is trying to achieve now or in the future through its propaganda campaign against Iran
- The regional and international factors that create the motives for U.S. action
- The framework of the maneuver and the possible justification of Iran's behavior
- The best line Russia's policy should take

It should be noted that the necessary facts for making the correct conclusions are not available yet. Therefore, this analytical report should be viewed as an initial study of the problem and an attempt to find a better line for Russia's policy on all possible developments in the area.

It is necessary first to focus on the situation in Iran, which is regarded as far from stable and characterized by the existence of several possibilities for development in the future. It appears through the spectrum of internal political events that the main problem is the conflict inside the Iranian leadership between the supporters of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who are described as pragmatists, and the supporters of the country's religious leader Khamene'i, who are considered hard-line Khomeynists and advocates of Islamic extremism. The conflict has been going on, in one way or another, since the middle of the eighties, despite the fact that the contradictions between the positions of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i are not characterized by hostility and enmity. They maintained the same position on many issues, including, for example, the election of Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the Republic, the question of granting Khamene'i the title of ayatollah, to which he was not entitled, and the question of controlling the prices of food stuffs. There are signs, however, that a conflict is brewing and imminent between the president and parliament, which enjoys extensive powers and strong influence in political life. The best sign was parliament's dismissal of Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who is considered the father of the reforms in the Iranian market and a close friend of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the dismissal of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's brother from his post as director of the Iranian radio. He is a supporter of the moderate line in the ideological policy.

At the same time, the position of Interior Minister Mohammad Besharati is being reinforced. It is said that he is a hard-line Khomeynist and currently heads the young Khomeynists' group, which controls the official media. Signs of popular resentment against the economic and social situation appeared in recent years. Since the spring of 1992, disturbances have been taking place periodically in the big cities, particularly Mashhad and Tabriz and in Iran's eastern provinces. In the summer of last year, 24 people were killed in a series of terrorist operations. Even in Tehran itself, specifically in its Azerbaijani suburbs, the situation is still tense. The proof is the attempt to assassinate Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the spring of 1994 and the unlicensed student demonstrations, which raised pro-Khomeyni slogans on the anniversary of the seizure of the American Embassy. The situation is still tense in the north of the country. The increasing social tension is attributed to the fast

population growth from 33.708 million in 1980 to 61.6 million people in 1992. This is despite the great human loss during the war and the number of young people who replaced the generation lost in the war with Iraq. One must not forget the amount of the human loss suffered by Iran to achieve political stability. The war has greatly reduced the number of poor people in the cities. It seems this matter is important, particularly in light of the split that recently appeared between Shiite religious leaders, who often express the feelings of the poor and more deprived class in society, and subsequently the more inclined to support the popular slogans, on the one hand, and support their peers in Mashhad, on the other. They adopt the religious interpretations of the bourgeois ideas. Western experts think that this split has become an important factor in domestic life since the beginning of the eighties. In essence, the economic and social problem is tied to a number of chronic and negative factors, which include the following:

- The effects and consequences of the war with Iraq, which caused huge material losses and totally crippled a number of industrial and oil installations
- The failure to develop the economic and social structure during the shah's time, causing mass emigration to the cities and the continued concentration of the poor and politically active classes there, particularly in the suburbs. The Islamic leadership has so far not been able to check the effects of emigration to the cities
- The big shortage in financial resources to undertake an effective and consistent economic development policy to limit its economic dependency on the West
- The lack of popular support for such measures and substituting that with propaganda campaigns launched by unofficial pro-Khomeyni guidance institutions

In 1994, the prices of basic commodities went up sharply. Fearing the outbreak of popular disturbances, the country's leadership has tried to ease the situation by adopting administrative measures, but many experts think that such measures could cause a drastic shortage in basic consumer goods and an increase in public indignation. An open debate is taking place in the Iranian press about the decline in the standard of living, compared to what it was under the shah, and whether it has declined by two times (and this is the official view) or six times (which is what the leftist press say).

The important element in the internal political situation in Iran is the financial crisis facing the country, which is becoming clearer day after day. The value of the Iranian rial dropped by 15 percent since the beginning of 1995.

Inflation went up to 60 percent during 1994. The drop in the oil prices (whose revenues constitute 94 percent of all export earnings) meant that the country was receiving two-thirds of the planned foreign currency. This is perhaps due to the measures adopted by other oil states to increase their quotas secretly. The situation is even more serious because Iran was forced in recent years to spend about \$7 billion to pay the interest on its debts out of total export earnings of \$17.16 billion. In 1994, the Iranian leadership admitted that Iran is no longer able to repay its foreign debts. Iran rescheduled its debts and postponed repayments until 1996 (and this means that 1995 could become a year of relative stability, from the financial point of view, if no sudden sharp tension takes place in Iran's relations with the Western countries). The economic and social situation in Iran today reminds us very much about the situation in Iraq before its invasion of Kuwait. Many of the reasons for this invasion were purely economical. It is natural that this situation would lead to a crisis in social life, which could threaten the ideological legitimacy of the country's leadership. The following measures, which reflect the Iranian peculiarity, clarify the manifestations of this crisis:

- Combatting satellite television dishes, which won great popularity. They were brought into the country illegally in order to view banned television programs.
- The mounting criticism and condemnation by the Islamists (that is, the political groups that use Islamic teachings as an ideological basis for their political actions) in the press and the parliament against President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy on the reconciliation with the West. What is interesting in this matter is that this criticism revolved around the idea that the official policy in this regard has not produced specific results.
- Intensifying the campaign to defend what is called "social ethics."
- Sharp debate between Iranian and Iraqi Shiite leaders regarding the appointment of a new Shiite religious authority following the death of Ayatollah Mohammad Araki.
- The huge popular procession at the funeral of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan (who was appointed by Ayatollah Khomeyni as the prime minister of the first transitional government after the fall of the shah), who wanted to pursue a moderate line and strengthen the relations with the West, but was strongly criticized by the Khomeynites.

These measures assume greater importance if we take into consideration that Iran's influence in international

affairs is primarily based on ideological principles, which are confronting the United States and the West and promoting the Islamic revolution. If the policy of a rapprochement with the West pursued by the followers of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continues, Iran will lose its influence among the supporters of the Islamic trend without winning any suitable "compensation" from the Arabs.

Although Iran is regarded as a leading state in the area, it remains in relative isolation. Iran maintains strong relations with Sudan and practical positive relations with Syria and Yemen. It has tried to establish strong cooperation with countries outside the area, such as China, which has become one of the important sources of goods, industrial equipment, and weapons. Iran is attempting to strengthen its relations with Pakistan, and some "warmth" has been noticed in Iran's relations with Iraq. Many Western experts think that the United States' policy, which is based on isolating the two countries, is prompting them to draw closer to each other. At the same time, the basic problems in the relations between the two countries, particularly the disagreement about Shatt al-'Arab and the situation of the Shiites in southern Iraq, have not been resolved, and this might create a sharp crisis between them. Since the middle of 1994, the Iranian leadership has been trying to achieve a degree of rapprochement with Turkey. It appears that Iran's motive is to secure its interests in the distribution of the spheres of influence in the Central Asian republics, which had been under Soviet rule, and to reach an agreement to coordinate policy regarding the oil in the Kazvin Sea. Iran has been trying to change its method of penetration into Central Asia to strengthen its influence there. It is clearly trying to replace its ideological (the call for Islamic revolution) and military (support for armed Islamists' groups) penetration methods with economic cooperation with the Central Asian republics, particularly Turkmenistan. What is happening now, in general, is that Iran is trying to give its foreign policy an economic character because it urgently needs to find financial sources to ensure stability at home. According to most experts, the Iranian leadership is trying to establish its policy toward the United States on the basis of the war in the Gulf. It does not want and has no interest in aggravating its relations with the Americans or their direct allies in the area in the coming five years (that is, until it can develop the armed forces and ensure economic and social stability in the country).

Furthermore, Iranian politicians are very sensitive to the question of isolation. Even the very cautious statements of President Yeltsin, during his visit to Washington, on the expansion of military and technical cooperation with Iran and the supply of nuclear energy to it, were received

with obvious nervousness. Consequently, it is likely that with the appearance of the first signs of increased isolation (that is, in case the effective cooperation between Iran and Russia and between Iran and China stops because of Western pressure) and the deterioration of the internal situation, the Iranian leadership would try to save its honor (and history shows that saving honor was one of the most important reasons for making decisions in the Islamic world) in such a case, and the search for solutions could lead to the adoption of unwise decisions, including the use of military forces. It could result, at the least, in changing the foreign policy priorities. In the light of the existing situation in Iran, it is possible to assume that:

- Iran is seriously experiencing social and economic problems. This is a long-term situation of a strategic nature.
- The internal situation could deteriorate as a result of outside factors.
- The internal crisis could prompt the Iranian leadership to change its foreign policy priorities.

When assessing the situation regarding Iran's nuclear program, it should be said that Iran is a full legitimate member of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Therefore, it can and must be regarded as a link in the chain of international cooperation in the nuclear energy field. The International Organization for Supervision and Inspection carries out regular inspections of Iran's known nuclear installations. So far it has not discovered any signs that Iran has violated the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Iran has not made any specific requests to this organization and has not imposed any restrictions on its inspection visits. Iran also does not oppose cooperation with it. So far, there are no justifications to accuse Iran of violating the treaty. What is involved here are doubts about the program's objective rather than political violations. Furthermore, the United States' current claims against Iran's nuclear program are, to some extent, considered a retraction of previous official statements (including the CIA director's statement in 1992) that Iran, under present circumstances, will be unable to produce nuclear weapons within the next 15 years.

Washington issued a strong negative reaction to the reports that Iran and Russia have reached an agreement to complete the construction of a nuclear power station near the city of Bushehr on the Gulf coast. Washington thinks that Iran can use the nuclear reactor to obtain the necessary materials to produce nuclear weapons. According to some reports, President Clinton will soon ask Moscow not to sell nuclear reactors to Iran and to stop competing with the consortium of international companies (under U.S. auspices), which intends to

supply nuclear reactors to North Korea. This confirms the principal motives of the U.S. policy. Meanwhile, the United States has not offered any new information about the nuclear installations in Iran nor about Iran's activity in this field, but U.S. officials view the possibility of the appearance of nuclear weapons in Iran in the distant future as almost certain. They insist that the only deterrent is to curtail Iran's financial resources. They are preparing western public opinion to accept the need for isolating Iran politically and economically. The United States currently relies on rumors about Iran's attempts, which could be successful, to obtain nuclear weapons from some of the republics of the former Soviet Union, particularly Kazakhstan. Such logic is met with criticism by most western experts. Therefore, some changes were recently made. The United States is not satisfied with exerting pressure on Iran to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons. It is calling for efforts to nip this desire in the bud. Thus, "Tehran's support for Muslim extremists" financially and morally and not nuclear weapons has become the prominent theme of the campaign against Iran.

Based on Iran's nuclear program, it is possible to raise the following assumptions:

1. It appears that Iran has indeed conducted studies and researches in the nuclear field in violation of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. These studies have assumed a purely military nature. Most probably, such studies were also conducted during the shah's time, and perhaps during the first years of the Islamic Republic. Anyway, the military nature of Iran's activity in the nuclear field undoubtedly appeared during the shah's time.
2. The results of the war with Iraq and the economic difficulties were supposed to reduce the enormous allocations for the nuclear program or possibly to postpone or suspend it. Otherwise, signs of the outcome of these illegal programs and activities would have appeared by now.
3. It is possible that after the war against Iraq in the Gulf, the Iranian leadership has become convinced of the need to possess nuclear weapons as a deterrent against any operation like the Desert Storm that might be directed against it in the future.
4. Even if such a political decision has been made, it is doubtful that Iran's financial and economic situation would permit it to undertake such a huge project. Furthermore, western experts admit that Iran does not currently have the national cadres to carry out this task, even on the theoretical level. Of course, what is involved here is the production of modern nuclear weapons and not just a detonation machine.

5. It is likely that "remnants" of previous activity in the design of nuclear weapons still exist in Iran. It is possible that Iran has unassembled equipment, radioactive materials, and other devices it had bought.

6. The discovery of these "remnants" gives the United States a chance to increase Iran's isolation in the world. It appears that the Iranian leadership recognizes the seriousness of such a plan and is concerned about it, although U.S. claims do not include precise information about the existence and nature of these "remnants."

Meanwhile, the United States is currently intensifying its campaign against Iran, accusing it of working to enhance its military strength, but this U.S. accusation is unrealistic because Iran's purchasing of weapons is part of the arms race in the area, especially as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Kuwait, and Turkey are all re-equipping their armies on a wide scale. According to the highest estimates, Iran is able to allocate about \$2 billion to buy weapons (according to a statement by CIA Director Robert Gates). This figure is very high, considering the current financial crisis facing Iran. Most experts think it does not exceed \$800 million. Therefore, because Iran places the issue of developing and modernizing its army at the top of its priorities, the production of nuclear weapons in the near future is difficult to achieve.

The objective of the American propaganda campaign against Iran's nuclear program must be assessed within the general framework of the developments in the major Middle Eastern countries. In Egypt, the internal crisis resulting from the activities of the extremist religious groups is continuing. Intensive contacts between Egyptian and Palestinian religious extremists began to appear. The "infiltration" of Muslim fighters from one country into the other became clear when an Egyptian was killed in the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the nineties, the number of armed cells in the Islamic organizations has begun to increase. At the end of 1993, the number of members in the armed wing of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which is the largest Islamist group in Egypt, reached 10,000. It is believed that the influence of the military wings in all the Islamic organizations has greatly increased after volunteers returning from Afghanistan and Bosnia joined them. Furthermore, Egypt's efforts on the foreign policy level are restricted by the problems facing the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict (Egypt's success in this direction could help Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to consolidate his position in the Arab world).

The statements of some experts that the only force capable of confronting the Muslim extremists is the

Arab nationalists and that the United States and the West should support them confirm the depth of the crisis.

In Iraq, the internal situation is becoming more critical. Rumors are always circulating about plots in the Iraqi Armed Forces. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to the site of armed clashes between the Iraqi Army and the Shiite rebels and reports by the Iraqi media that regular forces of the Iranian Army participate in the clashes on the side of the rebels confirm that the situation in the south of the country is gradually beginning to get out of the hands of the ruling authority. The Iraqi leadership realizes the danger of domestic instability caused by the economic blockade, which does not only affect the lower class but also harms the middle class of employees, military officers, teachers, workers, and journalists. This class survived in the past, thanks to the oil. Therefore, the Iraqi leadership is trying very hard to break out of its diplomatic isolation and lift the embargo imposed on it. Many analysts publicly admit that the United States has begun gradually to loosen its grip on the talks between the United Nations and Iraq and will not be able anymore to determine the organization's policy toward Iraq alone.

In the Palestinian self-rule area, the administration's crisis is continuing and the Islamists' activity is intensifying. Most observers think that 'Arafat is trying to check the activity of the Islamic extremist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Organization] organization by submitting hard conditions to Israel. It is interesting that the official Israeli and Palestinian authorities admit that Hamas' budget is not large (it is estimated at \$30 million annually). The number of members in its military wing is very small (the largest combat cell in Gaza does not exceed 100 fighters). Therefore, the situation in this area could become very complicated if Iran or any other force increases its financial support to the Palestinian Islamic groups, even slightly.

There is no doubt that the peace process is clearly stumbling, despite the relentless efforts of the United States in this regard and the aggravation of the social crisis in Israel and the increase in the influence of the Israeli rightist parties, which reject the peace process. Despite its long experience in this field, Israel has not been able to check the wave of fedayeen activity in its territory and settle the problem of the Hizballah fighters in the security zone in southern Lebanon (which was under total Israeli control at the beginning of the nineties).

Perhaps the important event in the area recently has been the merger between the two parts of Yemen, creating a strong state with a population of 14 million people (larger than all the Gulf states, except Iran and Iraq, and

the fourth largest Arab state, in population, after Egypt, Morocco, and Iraq). It is also situated in an important strategic area.

[9 Jun 95, p 9]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—It appears from what was mentioned earlier that the U.S. position in the Middle East is passing through a period of uncertainty, the most prominent features of which are the following:

- The situation of most of the U.S. allies in the Arab world is difficult to some extent.
- The U.S. influence in Turkey is weakening. The mutual understanding on some issues has turned into public argument. The flagrant U.S. criticism of Turkey on the issue of human rights, Turkey's strong reaction to this, the United States' inability to prevent a rapprochement between Turkey and Iran, and the difficulties and obstacles facing the United States in its attempts to settle the conflict between Turkey and Greece about Greece's territorial waters in the Asian Sea all indicate that the Clinton administration has not yet been able to settle all these problems with Turkey without resorting to open economic and political pressure, which has not characterized the relations between the two countries before.
- The slow pace in the Middle East peace process on which the United States has concentrated all its efforts and attention in the past two years.
- Extremist and anti-American religious groups have become active in most countries of the region, such as Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Jordan, Yemen, the Palestinian self-rule area, and others.
- It is likely that an "axis" would appear among Iran, Yemen, and Sudan (with Iraq taking a neutral stand), accompanied by an end to the instability caused by the extremist Islamic groups in other countries, particularly in Jordan and Egypt. This would place the United States in a difficult and complex position.

The problems and issues facing the United States in other areas of the world are leaving their impression on the Middle East issues also, particularly:

1. The crisis in Mexico and the problems it is causing to the United States regarding the establishment of basis and structures for the North American Free Trade Zone and the additional financial expenses needed for that. This practically means that the United States will not receive any direct income in the coming three years from the implementation of this program, but will be forced to provide direct financial aid to Mexico.

2. The crisis in the U.S. Administration and the heavy loss suffered by the Democrats in the recent Congressional elections. The "contract with America" slogan, raised by the Republicans in the election's campaign, has won public support, although it is difficult to implement. An urgent task is facing the U.S. Administration, which is to create appropriate conditions to rally support for President Bill Clinton, and this could reflect on foreign policy issues.

3. The absence of signs of solidarity and unity in the policies of the western countries in the past two years. Although the depth of existing contradictions among the main powers in the western world should not be exaggerated, many of the U.S. allies keep out of world events for purely objective reasons. Japan, for example, is still suffering the effects of the earth quake that hit the city of Kobe and caused heavy material and human losses. This will throw a heavy burden on the whole Japanese economy, which has experienced stagnation recently. In Europe, the differences and contradictions regarding the principles of developing the European Union have entered a new stage of intensity and activity.

4. The coolness of the relations with Moscow. The war in Chechnya and other critical issues have played a clear role in this regard. The West thinks that the war in Chechnya has revealed the existence of at least three new standards in Russia's current policy:

- Russia is still (and apparently will also be in the future) able to use military force to ensure its interests.
- Russia still thinks, as before, that military force is an effective political method to compensate for its weakness in the other political areas.
- Russia can continue on this course, despite the sharp and comprehensive criticisms by the West and the pro-western forces inside the country.

Consequently, all these matters have prompted the United States to think that the current methods to influence Russia are not effective. The United States will try to review its policy on the relations with the Russian Federation. It might also review the positions of other states to bring pressure to bear on Russia.

5. The crisis in U.S.-Chinese relations. The threat to impose sanctions against China for violating the copyright principles is very artificial. Most observers think that this threat is just part of a general campaign to pressure China, which would be followed by open dialogue about the usefulness of continuing to grant China preferential treatment, in view of its "violation of human rights."

All these matters will prompt the military and political leadership in the United States to seek new ways to maintain U.S. interests, and this might involve harsh measures. The United States could reassess its policy in the Middle East, and this would definitely cause a serious and comprehensive repercussions.

Therefore, the question now is: How can the United States review its policy in the Middle East?

The following points might show the logic in this trend:

- Changing the centers of power in the area to increase its influence and compensate for the loss or weakness of its positions in certain countries.
- Creating solidarity and support among the foreign and local forces for the United States by aggravating the situation in the Gulf, which is considered a vital area for most countries of the capitalist world (and relatively less important for the United States, which imports 12 percent of its oil needs from it).
- Granting legitimacy again to its military presence in the area because the previous justifications and reasons that led to this American presence in the area have gradually begun to disappear. Thus, U.S. presence would continue according to an official and justified request.
- Preventing the emergence of an anti-American military and political alliance, particularly among Iran, Yemen, and Sudan, supported by Russia and China and not opposed by Pakistan.
- Working indirectly to create an anti-Russian bloc in the area by utilizing the threats of the fundamentalists and the present slogan that this time is characterized by confrontation between the "Islamic and orthodox cultures."
- Exploiting the issue of economic, military, and technical cooperation between Russia and Iran to pressure Russia and creating a convincing excuse to reduce the cooperation with Moscow. The United States might also stop providing loans to Russia through international financial institutions or at least threaten that it would resort to such a measure. Thus, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State S. Talbot has said that even if the cooperation between Russia and Iran does not yet contradict international treaties and agreements, the United States can impose limited economic sanctions on Russia (in its capacity as a state that helps Iran to bolster its military capabilities) according to the country's laws. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher linked the continuation of the joint space program with Russia with the suspension of Russian-Iranian cooperation in the nuclear field. It is noteworthy that this principle of linkage applies

to other non-joint programs, which is considered an escalation in the American-Russian argument about Iran.

Intensifying the propaganda and diplomatic campaign regarding the U. S. leadership in the world, especially that the U.S. Administration will be forced in the near future to pursue a foreign policy in conditions in which consensus decreases and isolationism increases.

Relying on the "counter-deployment initiative" that was raised at the end of 1993 (which in principle allows the use of military force for preventive purposes against nuclear installations in "neighboring" countries), the United States can try to impose its method in solving similar crises on the international community and the United Nations.

It is particularly noteworthy that the United States has achieved what it wanted, which is to make the need to "combat the spread of nuclear weapons" closer, in terms of its social echo, to the idea of the struggle against Communism during the period of detente in the seventies. This need is now looked at from a military point of view rather than a political one. This means that resorting to military force in this regard is possible. Actually, an attempt is currently being made to grant legitimacy to the concept of "counter-deployment." If this concept is linked with the question of the danger of "Islamic fundamentalism," this linkage can create and strengthen American positions in the area.

Meanwhile, one must not forget that American political circles have considered the possibility of cooperation with Iran in addition to the need to fiercely confront it. These possibilities still exist (because the objective is not isolating Iran, but reviving a pro-American Iran).

If we review all the articles and statements published about Iran, we can see that attempts to devise a strategy for cooperation with Iran have assumed an urgent nature. While the main priority in U.S. policy toward Iraq has been to explicitly declare the need to change the political regime, this has not been the case with Iran at any time. They only talk about the need for a change in Iranian policy and nothing else.

All serious articles have recently concentrated on the following:

- U.S. policy is pushing Iran toward an alliance with Iraq, and this will seriously jeopardize U.S. positions in the area.
- U.S. allies in the Gulf region are unable to tolerate and face a coordinated expansion by Iran and Iraq.

There is no opposition in principle to an alliance with Iran, whether by the United States or by the other side.

Furthermore, many high-level experts in the United States think that the fundamentalist groups (and most of them are directly or indirectly linked with Iran) could be and even must be an ally of the United States in deterring Russia. Another view is that Russia is currently weaker than the Muslim fundamentalists and the United States must support it.

In considering the prospective developments in the area, one must take into consideration that the Gulf war experience, the collapse of Yugoslavia, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the political developments in Russia and other states make the United States prefer to be guided by many possibilities of the linked events.

As it appears, the United States is guided by three possibilities, which are similar. The United States begins by making claims and accusations against Iran concerning its nuclear program, then attempts to stir up a broad discussion about Iran's internal and external policies, and then concentrates on government-supported terrorism as an important element in them.

This might be followed by the United States imposing an international boycott against Iran or threatening to impose one. At the same time, the United States and its allies around Iran (including some of the west European countries) might use direct methods to increase Iran's existing difficulties. They might impose limited economic and trade sanctions against it and prevent the exportation of American technological goods to Iran.

The United States might also utilize the international monetary systems it controls, like Swegate [as transliterated] and others, impose sanctions against U.S. and joint foreign companies that deal and cooperate with Iran, and exploit the U.S. participation in economic projects against Iran (and this is what is happening now in the issue of the Kazvin Sea oil).

Events might develop later in the following directions:

The first possibility is provoking Iran and forcing it to act, according to the "Iraqi scenario," against the UAE or—and this is more possible—against Iraq (particularly if the situation deteriorates in the Shiite areas in southern Iraq). The United States can implement the Iraqi scenario in two ways:

1. It can help in the disintegration of Iraq (by supporting the Kurdish and Shiite opposition in the south and working, at the same time, to organize a coup against the present regime). This would appear as an "invitation"

to Iran to intervene. The guidelines for implementing this possibility can begin by the United States objecting openly to the easing of economic and political sanctions against Iraq, offering open support to the Iraqi democratic congress, demanding a stop to the Turkish Military's pursuit of the armed Kurdish groups inside Iraqi territory, and reintroducing the extensive humanitarian aid program to the Iraqi Kurds and Shiites.

2. The United States and the West in general can again openly express support for Iraq to establish a counterforce to Tehran. This would be met with a preventive reaction by Iran to stop Iraq regaining its power.

It is possible, in this case, that the United States would agree (ostensibly under pressure from France and Russia) to ease the sanctions against Iraq. This would be followed by the intensification of Iraqi-U.S. contacts and improvement of Iraqi-Saudi relations to a certain extent and finally Iraq returning some of the Kuwaiti detainees and prisoners.

In any case, the link between Iran and Iraq is the issue that the United States will need to address, regardless of whether this would energize the military and technical cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE.

The second possibility is a repetition of the possibility that took place in North Korea, which is to gradually turn Iran, without saying so, into an ally of the United States. This possibility can be achieved in principle if the Hashemi-Rafsanjani group assumes control of the political situation in Iran. It is noteworthy that Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the principal Iranian figure in the "Iran-Contra" affair. His associates have good experience in contacts with the Americans, and it is likely that some of the contacts are still continuing.

It is believed that the indications of such a possibility, which could become clear after the first signs of the crisis appear, are:

- The start of unofficial bilateral contacts by politicians close to Clinton.
- Humble activation of bilateral economic cooperation within the framework of officially fabricated economic war against Iran. Until now, and in the midst of the sharp Iranian-U.S. conflict, the volume of trade between the two countries has exceeded \$600 million. Furthermore, U.S. companies connected with the military sectors are working in Iran (before U.S. economic sanctions were imposed on Iran last Tuesday).
- Giving Iran a promise to postpone the repayment of its debts. There are indications of this trend now.

- Iran's agreement that the International Supervision and Inspection Organization can conduct a wide-scale inspection of its nuclear installations at the request of the United States.
- Lifting the restrictions on Iranian assets completely.

The third possibility (with limited tasks) includes changing the situation, after the outbreak of an initial crisis, to a state of continuous flux and applying—or at least considering the question of imposing—partial international sanctions against Iran, supported by American military presence in the Gulf, and forming an Arab states' coalition against Iraq consisting of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Egypt.

The development of events in this way would contain the maneuvers and activities of forces interested in the issue, particularly Iran, west European countries, and Russia. The implementation of this possibility does not require the creation of additional conditions.

In general, the U.S. task is summed up in exploiting the means of foreign pressure to effectively or ostensibly isolate Iran and spread an atmosphere of mistrust in the Iranian leadership. Each one of the three possibilities suites the United States in principle, especially as their implementation does not require large expenditures and can be done without its effective participation. The most realistic possibility, however, is the first one. The second possibility is more desirable for the United States than the others.

The importance of Russia's choosing of a sound policy on the issue of the fabricated crisis around the Iranian nuclear program is determined not only by its existing and long-range interests but because the development of this crisis and its outcome could make the United States able to choose the suitable method to resolve such crises in the future. The present crisis, in particular, has become a test of Russia's ability to effectively confront American policy in an important and strategic area to it and to preserve normal relations with Iran without resorting to open confrontation with the United States and the West. Furthermore, Russia's behavior on this matter will directly influence the nature of its relations with the Islamic world. Here an important and fundamental question is raised regarding the stability of some states on the one hand and international politics on the other. The question is: Where will the multifaceted activity of the Islamic fundamentalist states be directed? Who will be their prospective ally (despite the conditional slogan of "Islamic unity") and their archenemy?

Therefore, when evaluating Russia's interests in the existing situation, one must recognize the priority of the problem and proceed from the premise that Iran is considered a strong neighbor of Russia and can effectively exert influence, by various means, on the Central Asian area and the Caucasus.

Iran's policy directions toward Russia are multifaceted. They might include explicit or implicit hostility manifested in the implementation of an active expansionist policy in Central Asian and the Caucasus, taking a neutral stand, or establishing an alliance with it.

Consequently, what Russia must do is not to strengthen Iran or enter into an alliance with it unconditionally but to defend its interests in the area. It must not give a chance to the United States or any other hostile power to benefit from Iran's capabilities, which, in the ideological field, extend beyond its geographical borders, and exploit them against Russia. Allowing Iran to obtain the technology for the production of nuclear weapons will not serve Russia's interests. A militarily and politically strong Iran, which could turn its activity and ambitions toward the north, will undoubtedly become a bitter reality for Russia.

Despite the present economic difficulties in Russia, the Russian-Iranian relations must be built on the principle of granting preference to geopolitical interests over economic interests. This means that Russia's policy, which is determined by strategic interests, must not become hostage to the possibility of obtaining transient economic benefits that could herald very active cooperation with Tehran or abstaining from cooperating with it (as a result of American pressure).

What does this or that possibility of the development of events within the framework of the "Iranian nuclear crisis" mean for Russia?

1. The inevitable development of serious tension in the Gulf area and the Anatol area of Asia Minor. This tension will cover part of the Islamic areas adjacent to Russia, primarily Turkmenistan, and increase the instability in Tajikistan and north of the Caucasus.

Iran's sharp behavior could cause Russia to join an alliance against Iran, if not military at least politically, because it expects Iran to launch a direct armed attack in light of its possible violation of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Consequently, the American military presence is assuming a permanent character in the area, the possibility of Russian presence (military and political) is diminishing, and the possible benefits of a Russian military, technical, and economic cooperation with Iran are being terminated.

2. When events develop in this way, a strong negative factor will appear for Russia, which is the possibility of Iran being used by the United States to pressure Russia directly or indirectly within the framework of the "new deterrent" currently being discussed. This might further complicate the situation regarding Russia's participation in the Kazvin Sea oil project and the trans-Asian pipeline.

The worst result of this possibility is the emergence of an anti-Russian Iranian-Turkish joint government (joint sovereignty by two or more states, a joint government, or a country under the rule of two or more states) that aims at coordinating policy in Central Asia and the Transcaucasus and moving on to north of the Caucasus and the Volga area. This could result, within a short time, in the final expulsion of Russia from the Middle East, which is absolutely not desirable if we take into consideration the increasing tension on Russia's southern border.

3. In case mild tension develops regarding Iran's nuclear program, it is likely that the pro-Iranian Islamic groups in Central Asia and the Caucasus would become active as a result of the Iran's attempts to break out of its isolation by forcefully imposing Islamic regimes in some of the countries in the area, particularly Tajikistan. Then the system of military and technical cooperation with Iran will collapse (as a result of the application of economic sanctions against it and the creation of an appropriate negative atmosphere for it). In this case, Russia might be forced to join an alliance against Iran.

In general, Russia's interests can be determined as follows (arranged according to priority):

1. Ensuring a cordial or at least a neutral situation with Iran within the framework of a declared or realistic policy. The present course of the Iranian foreign policy is more suitable for Russia, despite its many oscillations, than all the other possibilities.

2. Not allowing Iran to withdraw from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty or violate its provisions. Otherwise, Russia would face a very difficult political crisis, forcing it to carry out one of the three possibilities of the development of the "nuclear crisis."

3. It is desirable that Iran should restrain its active expansionist policy in the coming three years. This situation is significant in more than one way. In the midst of Iran's active efforts in the Gulf or in the Palestinian area, the "crisis range," which is currently leaning toward Central Asia, might turn toward Russia.

Consequently, the strategic objectives of Russian foreign policy are:

- Not to allow the United States to isolate Iran or create a sense of isolation among the Iranian leadership.
- Try to prevent Russia from being dragged into a campaign against Iran and limit all U.S. attempts to exploit the international organizations to pressure Iran.
- Assume a leading role in the settlement of the crisis regarding Iran's nuclear program and try to induce Iran to implement the provisions of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.
- Should it receive firm and conclusive information about Iranian-American rapprochement, Russia should try to contain this rapprochement, even at the expense of the deterioration in Russian-Iranian relations. It should be clear to the Iranian leadership that its policy toward Russia and the United States is considered the most important dilemma in foreign policy.
- Try to ease the tension, at least temporarily, in Iran's relations with its neighbors, particularly with the UAE and Kuwait.
- Attempt to establish a security system in the area in which Russia can play a principal role.

The possible contradictions with the United States regarding the issue of cooperation with Iran are not considered, in light of the existing situation in Russian-U.S. relations, a critical factor and should not lead to concrete changes in these relations.

Azerbaijan 'Anti-Iran' Stand Described as 'Idiotic'
NC0707101795 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Jun 95
pp 1, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Republic of Azerbaijan: Repeating a False Charge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the overthrow of former Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey and the coming to power of Geydar Aliyev, Turkey's press and political circles spoke about the victory of Iran's diplomacy in Azerbaijan. This was not a completely baseless outlook since, during the rule of the 80-year old Aliyev over Nakhichevan, this area had always enjoyed Iran's material and moral assistance. Actually, by the simple act of supplying electricity, fuel, and bread for this small republic, Aliyev had been able to portray himself in Baku as a man who had been able to successfully solve all the problems of the people in Nakhichevan. This was at a time when Armenia's respect for Nakhichevan's sovereign rights had also been ensured through Tehran's peaceful diplomacy not by Turkey's empty military threats.

During the military uprising by Surat Guseynov against the ruling Popular Front, Aliyev played a major role in the political developments of Azerbaijan; and it was he who succeeded—through political transactions—in preventing the occupation of Baku by the pro-Russian Guseynov.

After coming to power, Aliyev stated that one of the principles of his foreign policy would be goodneighborly and friendly relations with neighbors. This policy, which was based on the national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan, received support from regional countries, specifically from Iran.

Within this context, the new Azerbaijani leader tried to ease the tension in the Caucasus by a policy of maintaining the balance between Russia and America and between the two regional powers, Iran and Turkey. But this policy gradually changed; and Aliyev turned his eyes to Washington and Ankara.

The beginning of Baku's "look to the West" process finally led to the Republic of Azerbaijan's membership in NATO's "Partnership for Peace"; and it was after this that a considerable change became visible in Baku's policy toward Iran. This change included the following:

1. Mistreatment and harassment of Iranians in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. Refusal to repay debts to Tehran on time;
3. Territorial claims against Iran in the Azerbaijani press coupled with the government's silence. These claims were mostly made by the Popular Front and its leader, Elchibey;
4. Obstructing the airing of programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Baku television;
5. Not granting Iran the promised share [in the oil consortium] on the pretext of American pressures;

Some of the reasons for the change in Baku's policies were as follows:

A. The weakening of the Azerbaijani leadership in the face of American and Israeli pressures;

B. The prospects for peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the change in the political situation in the Caucasus following the [decision to] ship Azerbaijani oil via Armenia and Turkey;

C. Concern over Iranian-Russian cooperation in solving regional conflicts, which was called for by the interests of the regional peoples and countries. This came at a time when it was against Baku's policy to solve the regional problems—namely, the Karabakh problem—at a time when American influence in this region had not yet expanded. [sentence as published]

D. Because of its economic problems and its inability to solve them, the government needed a foreign policy excuse to distract public opinion at home. This pretext was that Iran was harassing the Azerbaijanis [of Iranian Azerbaijan]. This aroused the people's nationalism and the public's attention was distracted from the government's inability to solve economic problems to an manufactured issue.

In order to analyze the situation, it should be said that considering the two peoples' common historic, racial, cultural, and political ties, Baku's efforts to fan the flames with a negative propaganda against Iran is not only unwise but idiotic. Elchibey tried to do the same, and he had to step down and retire to his village in Nakhichevan.

Meanwhile, if the Azerbaijani leadership sincerely wants to continue goodneighborly relations with Iran, it should show this by its deeds and not by useless words.

Deputy Foreign Minister Cited on Rushdie, Azerbaijan

NC0707115595 *Tehran RESALAT in Persian*
1 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Engineer 'Abbas Maleki, deputy foreign minister for education affairs, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent. Asked whether the Islamic Republic of Iran has given the Europeans any further answers on the issue of Salman Rushdie or not, Maleki stated: Mr. Va'ez's answer to the representatives of the three leading European countries was not new; the essence of his answer reflected the Islamic Republic's consistent stand on the issue of Salman Rushdie. He added: The Salman Rushdie issue is the Europeans' problem, not ours.

Referring to the fact that the Imam's fatwah remains valid, he stated: Of course, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated its principled stand that it does not intend to send people to Europe to carry out the fatwah.

Commenting on German Foreign Minister Kinkel's reaction, the deputy foreign minister stated: If you look at the incidents that followed the publication of "Satanic Verses," you can see that the Government of Iran has always taken a principled stand removed from sensationalism and based on logic. It still acting the same way; and the points of views of some countries will have no impact on these stands.

He added: Of course, we continue to have extensive relations with Germany. We welcome such ties, which extend to various political, economic, cultural, and

scientific fields. But we also continue to emphasize our principled stands on this issue.

Commenting on the false rumors by the Republic of Azerbaijan press about the Islamic Republic of Iran, Engineer Maleki said: We should differentiate between the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and that country's newspapers, especially certain newspapers. If you look at the history of the issue, we have never been so closer to any country or helped any other country as much as we have helped Azerbaijan. We will continue to extend such assistance because of our responsibilities to the dear people of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, it is clear to everyone that there are newspapers and magazines in the Republic of Azerbaijan that have always fanned the flames of friction, suspicion, and tension between the Iranian and Azerbaijani brothers. [passage omitted]

Stating that we have an independent and specific policy on neighboring countries, he added: The Islamic Republic of Iran offers some political, economic, and cultural assistance and cooperation on a specific level to other countries. It is up to these countries to make the best use of such assistance and cooperation. In recent years, unfortunately, the officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan have made little use of this assistance, while some other countries like Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and even the Republic of Armenia have made the most use of it.

'Abbas Maleki strongly refuted rumors by the press in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Regarding his recent visits to Australia and Germany, the deputy foreign minister stated: I visited Australia in order to attend the Indian Ocean littoral countries' conference, which was attended by 30 countries. Some of the results of this conference were the formation of a research center for scientific activities in the Indian Ocean; the formation of a joint commission of the chambers of commerce of the Indian Ocean's littoral countries; and preparations for the founding of an organization for economic cooperation among the littoral countries. [passage omitted]

On his visit to Germany, he said: With the help of the Iranian Consulate in Munich and with the cooperation of Munich University and the International Political Studies Department of the Foreign Ministry, a symposium to study the works of [scholar] Mowlana Jaleddin Rumi-Balkhi was held in Munich, Germany and a delegation was sent from Iran to attend it. [passage omitted]

Kamushi Meets With Visiting Turkmen Commerce Minister

LD0607131195 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1221 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, 'Ali-naqi Kamushi here Tuesday [4 July] called for removal of transit problems existing between Iran and Turkmenistan.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Turkmen commerce minister.

Kamushi said although the two countries desired to promote bilateral trade ties, there were still certain problems in this regard such as those concerning barter deals.

Calling as important the issue of transit in bilateral trade cooperation, he said the transportation syndicate of Iran was ready to sponsor training courses for Turkmen nationals.

The Turkmen commerce minister said Tehran and Ashgabat have signed several agreements in this respect which he hoped would be implemented in the near future.

Memorandum on Agriculture Signed With Libya

LD0607144795 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1417 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — At the end of the Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari's four-day visit to Libya, a memorandum of understanding in the area of agriculture and animal husbandry cooperation was signed between the two countries Wednesday [5 July].

In the meeting, Libyan Agriculture Minister, 'Abd-al-Kafi al-Said, underlining the promotion of Tripoli-Tehran ties, expressed hope that the visit will boost the level of Iran-Libya economic and political cooperation.

Meanwhile, Kalantari touching on Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's attention to Tripoli-Tehran ties, called for strengthening of ties between the two countries especially in the area of agriculture.

Velayati Views Legal Status of Caspian Sea

LD0607221895 *Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian* 1835 GMT 6 Jul 95

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good evening,

dear viewers of the weekly political program. At the end of last week there was a seminar of the five Caspian Sea littoral states at the Foreign Ministry's political and international studies office in order to determine and complete the legal status of the Caspian Sea. That is why on this week's program we have the honorable Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. We will be reviewing the existing viewpoints on the legal status of this important and strategic sea. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What was the purpose of holding the meeting of the heads of legal departments of the Caspian Sea littoral states?

[Velayati] As you see from its name, the objective of the meeting was to review the new status of the Caspian Sea and to find a suitable legal border solution appropriate to the new status of the Caspian Sea. Of course this is not a smooth way. It is a long and tortuous way. During the meeting we took a decision, which appears to be the most logical solution, that any principle decision on the Caspian Sea — a legal decision being the most basic — should be taken with the unanimous vote of all five littoral states. Therefore we hope that the next session of the legal committee, which is going to be held in Kazakhstan, would follow up the sea's legal status, and we hope we would see a faster progress toward determining the legal status.

[Correspondent] When is the session going to convene and at what level?

[Velayati] In the future, no later than two months time.

[Correspondent] At what level? At the foreign ministerial level?

[Velayati] At the level of directors general. If foreign ministers decide to hold a session, it would be a comprehensive session that would study the legal issues in general. Studying what was discussed at the directors general meeting would be one of those issues. Therefore the agenda of the foreign ministerial session concerns all legal issues. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In any region there is always the possibility of a state not being politically in unison with the composition of regional cooperation. I'd like to refer to the exploitation of oil and natural resource in the Caspian Sea, which is a subject of discussion. What is your view on that?

[Velayati] As a matter of interest it is just because there has not been an understanding beforehand regarding the ways of exploiting the God-given economic resources of the Caspian Sea that one sees such political disharmony in the region. One country, without seeking the

understanding of other states, signs deals with numerous foreign companies for the unilateral exploitation of the Caspian Sea resources, when, in fact, that sea is the common heritage of all those who live around it. If we divide the Caspian Sea and everyone does whatever they want in their share, then the sea will soon be destroyed and nothing will remain in it to exploit. Definitely a legal understanding must come first; definitely an understanding on the safeguarding of the ecology must come first; otherwise, this confined sea will become the arena for plundering international companies that seek nothing but profits and advantage. In that case you will soon see the waters of the Caspian Sea polluted. There will be no sign of fish in that sea, whether of the caviar-yielding type or other valuable types. Therefore you see that any undeliberated act will, in the end, be to the detriment of all countries. No country should allow itself to act unilaterally with no regard for the interests of other countries. Naturally, the other states will not allow such a thing to continue and will think of something. Therefore it is better for such issues, which are crucial and relate to the national interests of all those states, to be resolved with understanding.

Afghani Families Repatriated Through Milak Border Post

LD0607170395 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1636 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zahedan, July 6, IRNA — The general director of the department of aliens and immigrants of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Farzaneh stated that 150 Afghani families residing in the province have repatriated to Afghanistan through Zabol border post of Milak as part of the repatriation program.

Farzaneh said the Afghani residents of the Zahedan welcomed the voluntary repatriation plan. He added that so far 400 Afghani families have repatriated to their country. He went on to say monetary as well as non-monetary assistance have been given to those who went back home.

The general director asked the single Afghani immigrants who have the temporary resident card to report to the department for the issue of their repatriation card by July 15.

Editorial Calls Country 'Victim of Terrorism'

NC0607124395 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
28 Jun 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran, Victim of Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the early hours of the 28th of June, 1981, a bomb blast wrecked the building of the

Islamic Republic Party in Tehran, taking the lives of 72 luminaries of the newly established government.

The organization responsible for the tragedy was the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO). The ringleaders of the terrorist MKO shortly fled the country and took refuge in Western capitals.

Later, the same organization planted a bomb in the office of the then president, killing the president, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, and prime minister, Mohammad Javad Bahonar. The terrorist MKO did not stop there and began a series of attacks on civilians in order to send a wave of terror throughout the country to prepare the ground for toppling the Islamic government.

None of the so-called human rights watchdogs condemned the terrorist group's acts. Claiming to be patrons of human rights, instead of condemning the terrorist acts, Western governments gave asylum to the terrorists.

Unfortunately, not only some of the Western governments, but the human rights watchdogs, despite having witnessed that Iran is the chief victim of terrorism, have been trying to label Iran a sponsor of terrorism. It is indeed the main drawback of such organizations that they are influenced by big powers. so far as their judgment on Iran is concerned, they have remained partial since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

We do not expect some of those countries to change their attitude towards Iran. Their biased attitude stems from their animosity toward the Islamic Revolution, since it has cut off the interests of those powers. However, we do expect the human rights organizations to put an end to their subservience to the big powers and remain impartial while investigating and judging the human rights performance of developing countries.

Armed Intruders Attack Weekly's Office

95LA0297A *Tehran SALAM in Persian* 11 Jun 95
p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service—The office of PAYAM-E DANESHJU weekly was attacked by a number of unknown individuals.**

A news source at PAYAM-E DANESHJU weekly, in a telephone call with the office of the newspaper last night, reported this and, announcing the time of the attack by the unknown group as 1830, added: The attackers entered the building violently, closed the doors of the building, and cut the telephone wires. Then these individuals made threats, pretending to use their weapons, and said that they had engaged in this act on behalf of the government forces. They gathered two

members of the Central Council of the Islamic Students Association and several clients in one room.

According to this report, the attackers then engaged in vandalizing and stealing property including the photo archives, the news archives, the reports that were being prepared for the weekly, a checkbook, and some amount of cash, etc.

This report indicates that after the departure of one of the employees of the weekly, who informed the law enforcement officers of this event, three of the attackers were arrested by law enforcement officials.

This news source adds: The attackers, while throwing the equipment around, said that this country has no laws and that they themselves are the law. They also remarked: How many times has Mr. Tabarzadi, the director of the weekly, been warned not to print anything against the heads of the three branches? Why did you print it again?

The attackers also threatened the manager, the editor in chief, and the writers, saying: We will destroy you on the street or anywhere else with cars, etc.

Ministry Guarantees Free, Fair Parliamentary Elections

LD0607152295 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1421 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here today that his ministry guarantees holding of a healthy parliamentary elections.

In an interview with the Persian daily ABRAR, Besharati said his ministry has provided the necessary atmosphere and conditions for holding the fifth parliamentary elections. The Interior Ministry will use its potentials and resources to increase public participation in the elections.

The minister further told the paper that the turn out in the elections is of great importance for the ministry adding that this depends on several factors including impartiality of the Interior Ministry. "In practice we have proven our impartiality in the course of elections," he said.

According to the minister, preparations have been made for the fifth parliamentary elections. He added that the elections will be healthy because the organizers of the elections are completely impartial, a fact which will attract more voters and nullify foreign propaganda.

Paper Views Fourth Majles' Activities

95LA0264A *Tehran HAMSHAHI in Persian*
28 May 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Political

Political Service—The anniversary of the inauguration of the Majles is 7 Khordad [28 May]. For this reason, the week of Saturday, 6 Khordad [27 May], to Friday, 12 Khordad [2 June], is called Legislature Week. Considering the esteemed status of the Majles as one of the important organs of the Islamic Republic regime, this week we will take a brief look at the activities of this institution, which is the crystallization of the opinions of the people. The following text is a brief report on the activities of the Fourth Majles in its second and third years.

A glance at the proposals and bills examined in the second year reveals that, like the first year, the focus of the Fourth Majles is mainly on economics, and less attention is paid to bills and proposals to political and cultural issues.

Even though the Fourth Majles, with a newer composition compared to the three previous terms, has attempted not to have political issues overshadow its activities and it has frequently been announced by the Majles officials that the Fourth Majles has been the least chaotic one in the years since the revolution, recently, in the two and a half years since this Majles began, several deputies in their pre-agenda speeches have emphasized the necessity for political liberties and activities of parties and groups. For instance, Hashem Rahbari, the deputy from Tehran, demanded that parties and groups respond to numerous questions that at the present exist in various economic, political, social, and cultural areas.

Ansari, the deputy from Mashhad, also regarded the growth of factional favoritism to be the result of lack of activities of parties. Sho'leh-Sa'di, the deputy from Shiraz, too, spoke of the activities of parties and groups as necessary for democracy in the regime of the Islamic Republic.

Ahmad Hakimpur also considered the activities of political parties, organizations, societies, and associations a necessary requirement for political development. The operations of the second year of the Fourth Majles can be evaluated in terms of the two dimensions of legislation and oversight with regard to implementing laws.

In 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the Majles held 107 open sessions and ratified certain proposals and bills.

Last year, a total of 183 proposals and 269 bills were presented to the Majles, and 242 proposals and bills

were ratified, 49 proposals and bills were rejected, and 17 proposals and bills were returned. Of the total number of proposals and bills, four proposals and bills were shelved, five were referred to the Council for the Discernment of Expediency of the regime, 40 are ready to be examined, and 95 are being examined in the committees.

In the second year of activity of the Fourth Majles, which covers the period of 7 Khordad 1371 to 7 Khordad 1372 [28 May 1992-28 May 1993], a total of 93 proposals and bills were ratified.

The most important ratifications of the second year of the Fourth Majles can be mentioned as the law on the procedures to operate free commercial, industrial zones of the Islamic Republic, the proposal prohibiting receiving percentages on foreign transactions, and the proposal prohibiting the continuation of studying of the national officials during official working hours.

Out of 93 ratifications and 28 rejected proposals and bills in the second year, 50 cases were amendments, attachments, or interpretations of past laws, of which amount more than 50 percent are comprised of proposals and bills examined in the Majles. This percentage has increased compared to the first year of Majles activities.

The increase in the percentage of amended and attached proposals and bills indicates the necessity of studying proposals and bills more than ever before, so that such redundancies are reduced.

Minister Questioned	Number of Questions
Education	8
Economic Affairs and Finance	8
Interior	5
Agriculture	2
Petroleum	3
Islamic Culture and Guidance	1
Housing and Urban Development	1
Roads and Transport	1
Construction Jihad	1

In its activities, the Fourth Majles ratified one law about women, which concerned the allocation of women being admitted to assistantships in specialized medical fields.

The major ratifications of the Fourth Majles in the second year were economic, social, and judicial. There

were very few cultural ratifications, and regarding political issues, almost no law has been ratified.

The Activities of the Majles Committees in the Second Year

In the second year of the Fourth Majles, the Planning and Budget Committee, with 177 sessions and 561 hours of work in the course of the year, was the most active. It was followed by the Economic Affairs Committee, which with 107 sessions and 290 hours of work was more active than any other Majles committee.

Of course, it should be mentioned that the examination of the budget bill every year, which requires many sessions, is the main task of these two committees. Moreover, the activities of these committees indicate the special attention of the Fourth Majles to economic issues.

The Labor and Social Affairs Committee, in which the labor issues and proposals and bills related to that strata of the society are examined, with 39 sessions and 100 hours of work, is at the lowest level of the chart of the activities of various Majles committees.

In the second year of the Majles, the Committee on Articles 88 and 90, which is for investigating the complaints of the people and the deputies about the executive organizations of the country, received 8,588 complaints, which, when added to those in the previous years, made up 9,463 complaints.

This committee has had 2,955 pieces of correspondence with related authorities for the investigation of complaints, and in 4,305 cases, complainants have been advised or the lack of authority of the committee regarding the complaint has been announced.

Of these complaints, 2,203 were also shelved, and cases were made for 285 complaints.

Most of the complaints sent to this committee were about judicial issues, which numbered 3,177. This was followed by complaints about technical, developmental, welfare, and social issues.

Number of Questions Posed to Ministers

In the second year of the activities of the Fourth Majles, a total of 34 questions were posed to different ministers on various committees, and the ministers went to various committees to present the necessary responses.

Of this number of questions, a total of six questions were referred to the Committee on Articles 88 and 90 by the Majles board of directors, because the deputy was not satisfied.

Most of the questions of deputies in the second year that were referred to this committee concerned the minister of interior.

Inquiry and Investigation in the Fourth Majles

The Fourth Majles was more active than the previous ones regarding oversight. Requests for inquiry and investigation about the operations of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, the Haj and Pilgrimage Organization, the Reconstruction Headquarters of Kermanshah Province, the events of 9 Khordad 1371 [30 May 1992] in Mashhad, the procedures for the sale of lands of national and natural resources to individuals by the Ministries of Agriculture and Construction Jihad, and the operations of the officials of the National Headquarters for Reconstruction in the second year of the Fourth Majles were discussed. The reports on the inquiry and investigation of the Voice and Vision were among the most controversial investigations of the Majles, which ended in the resignation of the general manager of this organization. The report on the operations of the Reconstruction Headquarters of Kermanshah Province and the events in Mashhad were also read in the Majles.

Number of Reminders of the Deputies to the Executive Officials of the Country in the Second Year of the Fourth Majles

Considering the efforts and the great deal of attention that the Fourth Majles paid to the economic issues of the country, in the chart of the reminders by deputies, we see that most of the reminders were made to the Ministries of Roads and Transport, Energy, and Health. This shows that the deputies, in reminding the officials, paid attention to the problems in their constituency concerning roads, water, electricity, telephone, and health. Reminders regarding economic issues of the country are on the 11th line, and those regarding political issues have been given the least attention by the deputies.

Reminders to the Ministry of Information did not exist in the first year of the Fourth Majles and in the second year reached two reminders.

Regarding the reminders of deputies to the executive officials of the country, this point is noteworthy: most reminders were made to the officials by the deputies of Eastern Azerbaijan and Kermanshah provinces, and the deputies from the provinces of Bushehr, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, and the Central Province did not have any reminders. The provinces of Ilam, Yazd, and Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari also had one or two reminders each.

In the third year of its activity, the Majles examined 48 proposals and 54 bills, of which six of the proposals and 72 [as published] bills were examined as very urgent and five proposals and five bills as urgent.

Of the number of examined proposals and bills, 29 proposals and 30 bills were ratified, and five proposals and bills were not ratified by the deputies.

Ministry		Number of Reminders
1	Roads and Transport	48
2	Energy	46
3	Health, Treatment, and Medical Education	46
4	Petroleum	45
5	Education	29
6	Interior	23
7	Housing and Urban Development	21
8	Construction Jihad	19
9	Agriculture	18
10	Presidency	15
11	Economic Affairs and Finance	9
12	Commerce	7
13	Labor and Social Affairs	7
14	Industries	6
15	Mines and Metals	5
16	Cooperatives	5
17	Information	4
18	Foreign Affairs	1

The number of proposals and bills that were returned to the Council for the Discernment of Expediency of the regime due to differences of opinion between the Majles and the Council of Guardians was one proposal and one bill. The Council for the Discernment of Expediency of the regime, in examining the returned proposals and bills by the Majles, has so far verified and approved the opinion of the Majles deputies.

On the whole, of the three years of activities of the Fourth Majles, a total of four proposals and one bill

were referred to the Council for the Discernment of Expediency of the regime.

The third year of the Majles activities was the year of the ratification of the Second Economic and Social Development Plan of the country, which by changing the internal bylaws of the Majles was examined in two rounds of discussion and was ratified.

In its first round of discussions to examine the Second Plan, the Majles ratified the government revenues, and in the second round, considering these revenues, it specified government expenditures.

Another characteristic of examining the Second Plan was the establishment of the Combined Committee composed of the Economic Affairs and Finance and Planning and Budget Committees to examine this plan more rapidly.

Among other important ratifications of the Majles in the third year were the ratification of the law on prohibition of the use of satellite antennas, the proposal to revise the sale of government vehicles to managers, the proposal to prohibit having more than one job, the bill on the establishment of the province of Qazvin, and the report on settling the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget by the Accounting Committee.

Also, the most important question posed to the executive officials of the country was by Mahmud Astaneh, the deputy of Sarband and Shazand of Arak, to Mohammad Khan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, concerning the embezzlement of 123 billion tumans in the Saderat Bank, which was very widely reported in the society. Of the other events of the third year of the Majles, the interpellation of Nahluji, the minister of mines and metals, can be referred to. He succeeded in receiving a vote of confidence by a few votes and continued in this position.

The Majles in the third year lost two of its deputies, Hoseyn Saharudi, the deputy from Shahrud, and Jalil Rashidi, the deputy from Marvdasht, and new deputies replaced them.

Victory-6 Maneuvers Continue for 5th Day

*LD0707105295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 7 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The third phase of the Victory-6 maneuver [preceding word spoken in English] was held successfully with the participation of more than 4,000 marines and snipers of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Special forces backed by the brave pilots of the army aviation were dropped on sensitive positions captured from the hypothetical enemy. They managed to take the enemy forces by surprise and deal heavy blows against their fortified positions.

Simultaneous with these operations the army's naval units opened heavy fire on offshore positions of the hypothetical enemy to open the way for the landing of snipers and marines. Some significant successes were achieved during the first few minutes of the operations.

Pilots of the army's air force brought in special forces and bombarded parts of the occupied areas, inflicting substantial damage on them.

Following the occupation of the offshore positions of the hypothetical enemy by the navy's snipers further clashes took place between parachutists and soldiers of the hypothetical enemy which resulted in the surrender of the enemy forces in a number of positions.

Later, special forces recaptured the areas which were taken by the hypothetical enemy.

Daily Reports on 'Biggest Refinery' in World

*95LA0262B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
27 May 95 p 3*

[Unattributed article: "Biggest World Refinery in Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Bandar-e 'Abbas Refinery, which is due to be put into operation next year, with a capacity of 232,000 barrels of oil per day, is the biggest refinery in the world, said Abdullah Hariri, managing director of National Iranian Engineering and Construction Co.

Speaking at a press meeting with reporters who visited the refinery in Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hariri said that with the establishment of this giant refinery there is no need to import oil products. About \$1,350 billion, as well as 589 billion rials have been spent on this plan.

This refinery is capable of refining 220,000 barrels of crude oil used for export, 7,100 barrels of liquid gas (3 percent of total production), 26,100 barrels of gasoline (20 percent of total production), 36,200 barrels of kerosene and airplane fuel (16 percent of the total production), 69,500 barrels of gas oil (30 percent of total production), 66,900 barrels of petroleum residue (29 percent of total production), 500 barrels of tar (2 percent of total production) and 124,000 tons of sulfur per day.

Hariri added that the total price of this refinery's products is estimated to be more than \$4 million per day.

Asked about the progress of this project, Hariri said that it has progressed 65.6 percent. The company has established 450 kilometers of pipeline between Bandar-e 'Abbas and Rafsanjan for the transfer of this refinery's products. Moreover, some of its products will be transported by sea.

Hariri informed reporters that the budget of this refinery in the current year is 330 billion rials, plus \$180 million. He mentioned that the refinery had received some loans, including 480 million Deutsche marks from an Italian bank, \$250 million and \$260 million from two Japanese companies.

"The National Iranian Engineering and Construction Company has signed agreements with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan to perform some of their oil refining activities. This company is prepared to build refineries in other countries too," said Hariri.

Commentary Evaluates New Press Laws

95LA0264E Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 May 95
p 2

[Commentary by Kasra Nuri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The New Press Law: A Step Forward or Backward?

The 60-article press law proposal is presented to the Majles by a number of deputies in order for the deputies of the nation to examine the new law prepared and devised by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance concerning the activities of the press. This proposal is offered to the Majles while the press, despite a 160-year history, has not yet been able to achieve its actual place and perform its grave duty vis-a-vis every member of the society as it should.

In our country, so far five press laws have been prepared and devised, three prior to the revolution and two implemented after the revolution. At the present, the sixth law has been presented to the Majles. Even though under the present conditions and considering the 10 years since the implementation of the 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] ratified law, the main question is: Why is it necessary to amend the press law? We would like to take the opportunity provided by the presentation of the new press law proposal to the Majles to make a few points, as a reminder.

The first point is that the honorable deputies of the Majles must note that as one of the organs of democracy, they are examining the law on the activities of the press—that is, another organ of democracy—and the results of the examination will be recorded as an important page and valuable document in the history of this country. If, in the meantime, the true rights of

the press are taken into consideration, certainly a golden page will be added to the history of the revolution.

The second point that unfortunately must be made is that the press in the country so far has not dealt with this issue, which will mold their fate, and have not examined and researched the articles of the new press law. It is not inappropriate to ask: how does a press that is so indifferent to the law concerning itself and does not show any serious sensitivity hope to be the defender of the law and the rights of the society?

The third point is that in the new press law, despite the addition of certain articles that place more importance on journalists and the freedom of their activities, there are also some articles added that create doubt. Articles 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the new law contain certain points about which we should be pleased, because if they have implemental support, they will increase job security for journalists. Chapter 8, Article 53, however, considers the issuance of a journalist license a duty of the press deputy minister of Islamic Guidance and regards working without such a card as a punishable offense. In other words, we can conclude that if this article is ratified, from here on the journalists will work under direct government supervision, and the journalist card which is issued for them by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance will be like a business license that can be revoked whenever the government wishes, forcing the journalist to sit at home. In other words, alongside some ostentatious articles that may please the journalists, there are articles that will change their happiness to despair.

Also, based on Article 57, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for preparing for the establishment of a journalists syndicate, and the charters of this syndicate can be implemented with the agreement of the minister of guidance. In other words, even if such a journalists syndicate is established (which is a far-fetched probability), the government will still have the first and the last word.

Article 58 is also an article that disrupts news reporting activities, because even though at the present it is not possible for newspapers to send reporters abroad due to the harsh economic conditions, it would have been appropriate for the writers of this law, instead of threatening that the dispatch of reporters is only possible upon the approval of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, to provide facilities for the probable dispatch of journalists and expedite their work.

With the above review, this wish is formed: with the implementation of the modification policy and the freeing of everything, the press too would be freed from such government oversight.

Another point is the increase in the power of the Press Oversight Committee and the composition of this committee. In this law, in addition to the members of the Oversight Committee, a teacher from Qom Seminary has been added, and, as in the past, a representative of the employees of the press, and not the responsible managers, is absent from the Oversight Committee. Also, the increase in the power of this committee to revoke the license of a publication, considering the present economic conditions in which it is published with thousands of difficulties, is another point worthy of contemplation.

Finally, since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the situation of the press has changed significantly over that of the past, and the press, due to freedom of expression and reporting various opinions, has gained a wider area of operation. It is the duty of the writers and officials of the country not to allow restrictions on the activities of the press and the exchange of various ideas and opinions to eliminate one of the important gains of the revolution.

Pakistan

Government-MQM Talks Scheduled for 9 Jul

BN0707074595 Islamabad THE NATION in English
7 Jul 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Federal Minister for Law and Justice Prof ND Khan has said that he government is till impressing upon Altaf Group to lay down arms in order to make the forthcoming talks a fruitful exercise.

He said talks with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] did not mean the government had backed away from its demand of non-weaponisation. "The very fact that they have agreed to come to the table is an indication that the MQM wants to solve issues through political means."

ND Khan was talking to THE NATION on Thursday. But the Minister hastened to add that the government MQM talks were being arranged totally on unconditional basis and it had nothing to do with the ongoing cleanup operation in Karachi. About the tough measures against Altaf Group, he said since he was dealing with the political side he could not comment on that.

"However, we would be going into dialogue with open heart. I can tell you this much that the MQM's agenda for talks would be well-received now that they have opted for a negotiated settlement," he said while commenting on Altaf Group's demands.

Asked about the new schedule of talks, he said two members of the Altaf Group, namely Ajmal Dehlvi and Sheikh Liaquat had already reached Karachi on Thursday. "Now the MQM team is busy in consulting

one another to prepare for the meeting. they are coming and the talks are very much on. What I can say at this stage is that the meeting would take place soon after two holidays."

Khan said it could be any day after Saturday. He said the government had made all the arrangements for MQM team's stay in the federal capital. "They will be our guests and their security and other requirements will be ensured." When asked, the Minister avoided saying anything about the place of their stay.

About the prospects of the proposed talks, he said he was hopeful as the conditions were gradually becoming conducive. About the government's committee, he said "Apart from myself, it would consist of Afaq Shahid and Zohair Akram Nadeem. Even if Jamiat-Islami's Muzaffar Hashmi and JUP(N)'s [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] Hafiz Mohammad Taqi do not attend, they have assured us of their support and cooperation."

Here, the Law Minister urged the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Nawaz) to allow Mian Ejaz Shafi to take part in the dialogue. "We are trying to involve every MNA [Member of National Assembly] from Karachi in the peace process. So I would advise that the PML(N) to let their MNA attend the talks if they are really interest in restoration of peace in Karachi. It is very unfortunate the PML (N) is not allowing Ejaz Shafi despite his meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and an assurance to extend cooperation to the government."

APP adds: Much-awaited talks between the government and ethnic Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) on resolving the Karachi crisis have been put back to Sunday, the MQM said Thursday.

Ajmal Dehlvi and Shiekh Liaquat, key negotiators of the five-member MQM team, arrived here Thursday from London for what the party termed a preliminary round of talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's side to be led by law Minister N.D.Khan in Islamabad on Sunday.

When we sit for talks, we will assess the altitude of the government and will try to probe what exactly it demands from us", said Dehlvi, who is also a member of the MQM advisory team.

He flew into Karachi after a meeting in London with Altaf Hussain.

The meeting, earlier scheduled for Thursday, was put off due to a delay in the pair's return to Pakistan.

Dehlvi said that MQM would present its 18-point charter of demands which includes greater representation of the community in jobs, recruitment of local people in the police force and the political and economic rights of some 20 million settlers.

The party is also demanding compensation to families affected in the past three years at the hands of security forces and the withdrawal of "false cases" against the party leaders and activists.

"After finding out common grounds, we would try to solve the complicated issues," Dehlvi said, adding that Altaf Hussain would be kept informed of the progress. but, he said the party would go ahead with its two-day weekly strikes over the alleged gang-rape of the sister of a party activist and the killing of an MQM leader here two weeks ago. Dehlvi said the strikes on Fridays and Saturdays would be observed regularly until the arrest of the rapists and the murderer.

MQM Delegation Leader Arrives for Talks

BK0607134295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, has arrived in Karachi to participate in the MQM-government talks. Mr. Dehlvi is accompanied by Sheikh Liaquat Hussain. PTV's political correspondent reports that the two members of the MQM team are having consultations with their colleagues in Karachi. The talks are expected to begin in Islamabad within three or four days. The federal minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, will lead the government side at the talks.

The talks, scheduled to begin today, were postponed for a couple of days with mutual agreement between the two sides. The members of the MQM-Altaf Group, who were facing some logistic problems to reach Pakistan from London, had approached the government for delaying talks to which the government agreed.

Minister Welcomes Hussain's Condemnation of 'Terrorism'

BK0507134295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, has said that Altaf Hussain has condemned terrorism for the first time in an interview with a foreign television last night, and this is a welcome move. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the minister pointed out that terrorism and violence is not tolerated in any civilized and democratic society.

He refuted the allegation that in Karachi some official agencies were committing violence against the people. He pointed out that allegations could not be true as the functionaries and jawans [personnel] of law enforcing agencies were sacrificing their lives. In January this

year, he said, 123 jawans lost their lives as a result of terrorism and violence. [sentence as heard] Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal said if Altaf Group was not involved in terrorist activities, how then its important officebearers — Mohammad Taqi, Hishamuz Zafar, and Senator Zahid Akhtar — held Altaf Hussain responsible for the happenings in Karachi? According to these very persons, Azim Tariq and S.M. Tariq were killed simply for having differences within the party. Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal said Hishamuz Zafar and Senator Zahid Akhtar were very trusted companions of Altaf Hussain and the Altaf Group had recently demanded their release. The federal information minister also referred to Altaf Group's claim of not believing in violent politics but he said even their slogans like qaid ka ghaddar, maut ka haqdar [betrayers of the leader deserve death] were objectionable and were an invitation to terrorism. He said those who say they do not care for their lives should not hesitate to come back to Pakistan and face the cases in the court of law. However, Mr. Kharal appreciated condemnation of violence and terrorism by Altaf Hussain.

Opposition Accepts MQM Demand for Separate Province

BK0507144895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Jul 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, July 4 — In a bid to bridge the gap created between the PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League — Nawaz Group] and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leadership after Mian Nawaz Sharif refused to support Altaf Hussain's demand for a separate province for the Muhajir community, the PML-N stalwart Ch [Choudhry] Nisar Ali Khan on Tuesday offered to accept any change in boundaries within the country if done through the National Assembly [NA].

Addressing a press conference held at PML-N Media Centre here today Ch Nisar Ali Khan also offered to participate in the MQM and the government talks scheduled to be held on July 6 to find a solution to the Karachi crisis if the PML-N leadership was permitted to nominate its representatives.

Ch Nisar, whose party was apparently left out in cold after MQM Chief Altaf Hussain denounced terrorism in Karachi and nominated its team to hold negotiations with the Government, also said that after the new developments it was quite possible that PML-N sponsored National Conference on Karachi, which was earlier scheduled to be held on July 10, could be delayed.

Ch Nisar welcomed the MQM's announcement to start dialogue. However, he blasted the Government saying if

Benazir Bhutto-led Federal Government had eventually to adopt the way of talks with Altaf Hussain then why did it take so much time resulting in the death of over 1000 lives.

He said this change in the Government's stand was in fact a victory for PML(N) and other political forces which had been pressing the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government to hold dialogue with the MQM to find a settlement to the Karachi issue.

Ch Nisar said the success of the dialogue would depend on the attitude of the Government. He also demanded certain goodwill gestures such as withdrawing ban on six Karachi evenings, halt to atrocities on people of Karachi and formation of a committee of the National Assembly to compliment and supplement the forthcoming dialogue between the Government and MQM.

Ch Nisar said the Benazir Bhutto Government was responsible for deterioration in the Karachi situation by taking undemocratic and dictatorial steps. For instance, it was the National Assembly which passed a unanimous resolution to form a committee of Parliamentarians to find a solution to the Karachi issue but it was never implemented. It was now time to form an NA committee to help find the solution.

Ch Nisar said the Government must take these goodwill steps as it was the only way to dispel the impression that the proposed talks were aimed at only gaining time to inflict more atrocities on people of Karachi.

Quoting incidents of violence in Malakand and the recent decision of the Government to initiate talks with the MQM Ch Nisar alleged that it was Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ego which had led the country from one crisis to another. He said while people of Karachi were being brutally killed at the hands of law enforcing agencies the Federal Government was busy in arranging luncheons, dinners and musical evenings.

When asked would the PML-N take any action against those PML-N leaders who attended these functions, he said "well I personally did not attend any of it. However, after the situation in Karachi was aggravated the PML-N immediately reviewed its policy and decided not to attend these functions. [quotation marks as published]"

Ch Nisar said at a time when our enemies were making plans to destroy our industrial capital and the only sea port, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was making efforts to conquer Punjab. She wanted to put a puppet Chief Minister in the province when asked whether Mian Manzoor Wattoo was not a puppet Chief Minister he smiled and said he would confine himself to what he had already said.

When asked about the National Conference on Karachi, he said its date could be changed after the new development.

When asked why Altaf Hussain did not bother taking PML-N leadership in confidence before denouncing terrorism in Karachi and sending its team to negotiate with the Government, he said PML-N was not an ally of MQM but only cooperating on certain issues. Ch Nisar said when certain elements within the MQM projected the idea of a separate province, the PML-N took a clear line without consulting the MQM and now if Altaf Hussain had decided to initiate dialogue with the Government without consulting the PML-N leadership there was nothing wrong with it.

Ch Nisar did not agree that Altaf Hussain's decision of holding dialogue with the Government had proved Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto correct that PML-N was irrelevant in finding a solution to the Karachi situation.

MQM Leader Viewed as Coward, Dishonorable

95AS0466C Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu

23 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Who Does the MQM Leadership Represent?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Soon after the Charar Sharif incident intelligence agencies informed the government that India has made a dangerous plan to spread terrorism in Karachi in order to divert international attention from its serious crimes and to change the reaction of the people in Pakistan. We had asked the Sindh government to take precautionary measures in these columns. No doubt the police and the rangers have kept the situation in Karachi under control [as published] by taking strict actions. However, terrorism is like an arrow shot in the dark and no government in the world can really control it. Anyhow, the intelligence reports proved to be correct and the terrorists tried a "black day" and then spread killings and destruction. However, this time these agents of death were not able to play openly. Instead, some of them became prey to death themselves. Still, is not a fact that those who were killed or arrested in terrorist activities were actually the Mohajir Quami Movement's [MQM] notorious terrorist members? While the whole nation strongly objects to India's barbarism in Kashmir, MQM leader Altaf Hussain wrote a letter to President Leghari, army chief General Abdul Waheed, and core commanders of Navy and the Air Force. He blamed them for spreading baseless accusations to divert the attention of national and international opinion from the Charar Sharif tragedy and India's expansion designs. He also wrote that the nation was facing a situation similar to [when it lost] East Bengal and those who are arresting

the Mohajirs blindly are acting like they are winning Kashmir. Someone should tell Altaf Hussain that the only mohajirs left in Pakistan are those who came from Afghanistan. Those who came to take refuge in Pakistan in 1947 after suffering in various states in India, have been absorbed in the four states in our country. None of them insists on a separate refugee identity. If Altaf Hussain is referring to the Urdu-speaking population in Karachi, then they are much better off, more satisfied, and better respected than the refugees who speak other languages. As for the problems in Karachi itself, these are not much different than the problems in other cities in our country. Action to resolve these problems is already being taken. Therefore, Altaf Hussain has no right to use the name of Karachi's Urdu-speaking population just to keep his ethnic politics going. Meanwhile, Ishtiaq Azhar, the veteran MQM senator, said some strange things in response to the president's speech. He brought attention to the fact that the MQM voted for him during the presidential election and now he is calling the MQM a terrorist group. "If we are terrorists then why did Asif Zardari thank Altaf Hussain on the phone for the votes?" Even stranger is the remark he made that President Farooq Leghari supports holding negotiations with the MQM but the prime minister was avoiding it. In our opinion, both points made by Ishtiaq Azhar are baseless. First, neither the first nor this Benazir government has declared MQM a terrorist party. It was Ishtiaq Azhar who had explained that Altaf Group is not involved in terrorism, it is the MQM (Haqeeqi) that is involved. It is a known fact that both of these groups have been working together for a long time and thus Ishtiaq Azhar has indirectly admitted that the MQM has terrorist elements in its ranks. Anyhow, this is an internal argument between the two MQM groups who call each other terrorists. Both groups know each other's secrets. As for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President Leghari, and Chief Minister Sayyed Abdullah, none of these three have ever called the MQM a terrorist party. They had also made a written agreement with the MQM for involving it in the government as soon as they took office. Even then Altaf Hussain's major demand was to remove all the cases of terrorism registered against any MQM member in any police station. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had even then advised sagely to Altaf Hussain that the government would take care of all valid complaints, however, it will not interfere in legal and court affairs. If any MQM leader is involved in any case by mistake then he should not worry. Those people will be freed after legal actions. However, Altaf Hussain refused to listen to Benazir Bhutto and broke the agreement with the PPP at insistence of the underground powerful people. Instead, he formed a political alliance with Nawaz Sharif. Later,

when Nawaz Sharif came to power as the result of a phony election, it was because of the military operation started during his tenure that some very dangerous and extreme actions of the MQM were brought to light. It means that the PPP leadership was never involved in the division of the MQM into two factions. All this had happened during Nawaz Sharif's era. When Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came to power the second time, she opened the path to talks with the MQM herself and even accepted its ten points. Benazir Bhutto went as far as to say that if the MQM leadership should show sincere interest in working with the government for only 6 months to control terrorism in Karachi, it would be included in Sindh's government. She made this fact clear even the second time that Altaf Hussain has to prove his innocence like a man in the courts. Benazir and her husband Asif Zardari appeared in courts and proved their innocence. The prime minister's brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who had also spent a long time in self-imposed exile, surrendered himself to [arrest and] trial on his return from abroad. Why is not Altaf Hussain willing to do the same? Anyhow, aside from this argument, Ishtiaq Azhar's question is totally out of context. He said that votes were solicited from the MQM parliamentary members during president's election and Altaf Hussain was thanked after these votes were cast. Still, the MQM was never declared a terrorist party. It has a terrorist cell which has been involved in terrorism in the past also. Some of its members still get involved in scattered incidents. As for negotiation with the MQM parliamentary group, trying to divide President Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto over it is pure mischief. Their similar statements are on record and neither has refused to hold negotiations with the MQM. Ishtiaq Azhar is a gentleman and an understanding person. Instead of getting into useless arguments, he should take the moral courage to tell Altaf Hussain directly to return to Pakistan for the sake of the broader interest of the MQM and face the courts as well as practice politics from within the country.

Bhutto Blames 'Foreign Elements' for Karachi Events

BK0607120295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed the hope that the forthcoming talks with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf group would bring positive results. She said this during a panel interview with daily MUSAWAT. The prime minister said foreign elements who are out to disturb peace are involved in the Karachi situation. These elements want to achieve their unholy designs through sectarianism, terrorism and lawlessness. The prime minister said

her government would uncover the elements who are playing into foreign hands. She regretted that certain elements who claim themselves to be a political party are involved in terrorism.

Nawaz Mohammad Yusuf Talpur, federal minister for food and agriculture, has welcomed the MQM leadership decision to hold negotiations with the government to restore normalcy to Karachi. Addressing an open gathering at Kundri in district Umarkot yesterday, he said that it is the desire of the government that the Karachi problem be solved through political dialogue. He expressed the hope that talks would bring positive results. He said the government and the people wanted peace and normalcy in the city.

UN Observer Movements in Indian Kashmir Reported Restricted

BK0707035395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] APP in a report filed from New York says that the movements of the UN military observers in the Indian-occupied Kashmir have been restricted and they have been directed of seek permission of Indian troops before going to their center in Srinagar.

The UN observers have full freedom of access to any area in Azad Kashmir.

U.S. Intelligence Said Directed Against Islam

95AS0444D Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 May 95 pp 17-18

[Article by Farooq Haris: "Muslim Nations are the Prime Target of CIA Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Obtaining secret information or spying is not a new strategy; this has been practiced for centuries and is part of human nature. Human beings always had the desire to look into the minds of others and observe their internal or external behavior. It does not matter whether one had a small group or a large tribe, the practice of getting secret information was always prevalent (Hazrat Khalid Bin Valied's intelligence and spying system was very organized and effective. He won many wars because of his intelligence system). In the beginning, this spying system was viewed only from defense and strategic perspectives. However, its importance and format changed gradually with time. Now we see the intelligence agency of one country involved in devilish tasks such as trying to destroy another country, weaken it defensively, destroy its economy and people, have other nations fight with each other, encourage ethnic and regional prejudice, uproot governments they do not like, and assassinate the heads of nations. The agency that is considered top in

expertise and strategic planning, and is most notorious in this time is the U.S.' CIA.

The actions of the CIA are no secret. However, since all its subversive activities and secret information are hidden from an average citizen, everyone has a desire and interest in learning about its positive and negative character. We will share some CIA actions for increasing the knowledge of and interest of our readers. These actions have resulted in unrest in the whole world, especially the Islamic world.

What is the CIA? Why was the need to establish it felt? What are its goals and aims? How does it operate? What are its internal, external, and international activities? We will try to answer numerous such questions in this article.

In 1947, President Truman requested the U.S. Congress to pass a secret intelligence act and establish an agency that collects information from various departments and agencies and provides the U.S. government with factual reports. These reports would help the government formulate a strong foreign policy. After this act was passed, General William, Alan Dulles, and Donovan and other experts in war strategy managed this intelligence agency according to their individual styles in order to achieve the foreign policy goals that could not be achieved through proper diplomatic channels. Some responsible CIA officials were heard to say about such steps, "They have no regard for any moral or legal restrictions when trying to achieve their goals. However, since President Truman was a person with solid beliefs, the CIA has to face many problems in carrying out illegal and unconstitutional acts."

Because of this situation and pressure from the CIA and some high officials, the Central Intelligence Act of 1947 was amended in 1949. One important amendment allowed the CIA to "carry out all intelligence activities that are assigned it by the National Defense Council without any surveillance." This vague description gave the CIA full freedom to interfere in internal affairs of other nation and take any kind of step. Thus, a never-ending vicious cycle went into motion.

The CIA has left unforgettable impressions of its terrorist acts in many countries. We shall discuss those later. Let us talk about a minor CIA activity for now. Richard Bill was considered a very intelligent and capable CIA official. He had no equal in inventing instigatory methods. One of his inventions was MPB (mini plastic bomb) which was extremely lethal and dangerous. It could be used in all kinds of instigatory activities. The first demonstration of its potency was made on a military school bus under the supervision of ranking CIA officials. The MPB was tied to the gas tank

in such a way that when the bomb went off it exploded the gas tank within a few seconds. This provided a catastrophic scene. The bus jumped into the air with a scary blast and was totally disintegrated. Not only this, after this dangerous and barbaric experiment, hundreds of other experiments were conducted and these insane persons who played with human blood were viewed with pride by the CIA. There are three major terrorist intelligence agencies in the world now and these are especially dangerous to Islamic countries. One of these is the U.S. CIA, the second is Israel's Mosad, and the third is India's RA. However, since our topic is the CIA, we will limit our discussions to it.

The most important issue for the CIA is to recruit its agents, especially the junior officers. The candidates are closely watched for six months and are processed only if they are found satisfactory. They are not given full freedom after they are hired; they are under CIA surveillance as long as they are alive. The CIA has established a highly secretive system to run this and it has divided its employees into three categories: (1) Administrative, (2) Diplomatic, and (3) Regional. They are further divided into three levels: (1) High level officials at administrative levels always work in their offices in the headquarter. (2) Second level officials are those who work for the State Department and are attached to foreign embassies. These officials live in other countries and establish contacts and friendships so that these can be used when needed. (3) The third group of employees are usually active in other countries. Their job is to spread hearsay and rumors and hatch conspiracies resulting in violence. These employees are always active in the field. They are usually highly trained personnel from the military police. The officials attached to the embassies rarely meet these personnel in order to keep their identities secret. Only the local chief of the CIA known as the "administrator" or the "station chief" who usually have a high-level position in the embassy keeps contact with them. The station chief relays all the orders received from Washington to them. The CIA faces difficulties in sending its employees to the countries where the people are very different than the Americans in looks. Some of these countries are Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, China, and Japan. The station chief recruits locals in such countries. Be it payments or important directives, the station chief takes care of it all. If a local agency of another intelligence agency suspects the administrator, the station chief is called back to the United States immediately. He is replaced by another officer and all these secret activities are suspended for the time being.

To buy the persons it needs, regardless of who they are, the CIA exerts its full prowess and spends billions of

dollars in these deals. The major share of this wealth goes to the persons who are active in the field or offices in some way. Every CIA agent is allowed a specific amount according to his job, rank, and ability. When an agent is very effective, the CIA pays him the amount regularly whether it uses him or not. The agents who work in various departments steal important documents, tape conversations, collect information about visitors, and any other job given them. The CIA often rewards these agents with sudden increases in their wages so that they work harder because of the greed.

The method of payment to the agents involved in subversive activities is very different. It is important for these field operatives to spread as much destruction as possible. They are paid according to the amount of destruction they cause. The number of deaths in these activities should also be as high as possible so that the feeling of fear and terror disrupts all local administration. These instigators try to blast bombs in places such as a market or a bus or railway station where there is heavy traffic of people. These agents are paid high fees when they are successful in their efforts.

There is another level of subversive agents above these agents. These are superior to these and are called "masters" in the CIA book. Their job is to target important leaders such as religious person, high level politicians, high officials in intelligence agencies, and government officials including presidents and prime ministers. These agents are considered very important and the CIA keeps them under regular surveillance. They have instructions not to have many contacts. After a successful operation they are kept under security and efforts are made to take them out of the country at the first opportunity. These field masters cannot get out of the CIA grip if they work for it even once. If they try to get out they become victim of some accident. These CIA operatives that are very dependable and have served the CIA for a long time are rewarded for their service with American citizenship with all the rights. However, they still have to spend their lives under CIA eyes. It is often noticed that at times an agent is arrested while carrying out a subversive activity and admits to everything. However, because of the influence of the United States and the CIA and the inferiority complex of the country involved, everything is buried right there and no action is taken.

These are the activities that the United States spends billions of dollars on so that other countries do not have any left from taking care of its internal and external affairs. Thus, these countries would not be able to make economic progress and challenge the United States. That is why the United States is focusing wholly on Islamic nations which are suffering from the

U.S. system and its subversive activities. According to one estimation, 55 percent of the CIA budget is spent in activities directed against Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Afghanistan, and Palestine [as published]. The remaining 45 percent of its budget is used for activities in the rest of the world. This makes it clear what kind of feeling the United States has toward Islamic countries.

Torture, Corruption Said Routine in Detentions

95AS0394A Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 20 Apr 95
pp 31-32

[Article by Riafat Sayeed: "Murder and Arson Committed at Orders From Above"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left for her visit to the United States, a new wave of crime, violence, murders, and arrests darkened the looming shadows of apprehension once again. After the strict warning by the prime minister to the bureaucracy the police, rangers, the Federal Investigative Agency [FIA], and other intelligence agencies started to make claims about their achievements and after making announcements about arrests of dangerous terrorists they rained awards on their staff and a new series of promotions of officials went into effect. According to knowledgeable sources, the terrorists were already in police custody; the announcement of their arrests was delayed.

The worst wave of terrorism in Karachi started during the second week of January, however, the Karachi police had already arrested Sipah Sahaba's [SSP] active member Mohammed Ilias for terrorism. According to police sources, Mohammed Ilias during questioning identified six groups that were formed with the cooperation of the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM] (Haqueeqi) for terrorist activities. In addition to the known terrorist Kamran Jaffery, these groups had well-known terrorists Umar Hayat, Karim Allah, Asad, Mansur Ali Babar, and Mohammed Fazil as its members. They have been accused of mass murders, attacks on mosques and other religious places and killing over 100 persons. It should be clear that in connection with the mass murder of seven persons, the family members of the murdered person have identified Mohammed Fazil as the killer and Mohammed Fazil has also admitted to it. Fazil told the Security Cell during the investigation that this house was identified to him by "higher ups" and he was told not to return before killing those people. The accused had told that even after killing seven persons, his associates were concerned about leaving young Farqan alive. The police sources claim that in addition to committing these murders, this group is responsible for carrying out attacks on mosques in Mahfil Martaza and PIB Colony. One young assistant sub-inspector played

a major role in arresting these terrorists. He had identified this group a few days after the murders. He had followed this group constantly and when he had verified that this group was responsible for the murders, he made a plan to arrest them. However, the terrorists managed to flee. Later, the members of the Security Cell working under the Inspector General of Sindh succeeded in arresting Mohammed Fazil.

Mohammed Fazil told them that his father, Kalin Khan, was a councillor in Chowrangee. The members of Altaf group had killed him and slashed flesh from his brother's hands. Therefore, he had joined the MQM (Haqueeqi) and established relations with SSP. Fazil revealed during the investigation that MQM (Haqueeqi) and SSP had a high-level meeting a few months ago and had agreed to help each other.

Fazil also said that before murdering the seven persons in Society, Salim had talked to Mansur Babar on his mobile phone calling the number 321-229825. They had insisted that no one should be left alive. After the murders, Salim had deposited arms and ammunition with sector leader Tajuddin in the yellow house in Liaqatabad. Some of the arrested terrorists revealed that a group of 40 persons is involved in killings and arson in Karachi. However, when the police became active, some of these terrorists fled either to other parts of the country or to Dubai or Singapore.

The police became very active in arresting the terrorists in the first week of April after incidents of mass murders, attacks on mosques and worship places, and the murders of two American diplomats. The terrorists that were arrested were mostly those whose names were already revealed by the known terrorist Ilias. The reason for this delay in arresting the terrorists has not been given yet. Reliable sources believe that the investigation was not finished because of the orders from "above." The government sources are not willing to define this "above."

According to the sources close to the prime minister's office, Inspector General [IG] of Sindh Afzal Shukri had prepared a report based on the statements made by Ilias and the arrested leaders of SSP. This report recommended action against SSP and MQM (Haqueeqi) leaders and was presented to the prime minister during her visit to Karachi. She was not satisfied with the report but ordered action against the leaders. An important political advisor of the prime minister advised her not to provoke religious groups just before her trip to the United States. He feared that any government action would result in protests and violence all over the country, especially in Karachi. After this advice,

the prime minister cancelled her order to arrest any important leaders.

The amazing fact is that during this whole fiasco only one ethnic group and one religious group have been implicated. All the opposing groups are being ignored.

Hundreds of incidents of murders in Karachi have become a regular occurrence. More than 1,200 persons were killed during last year while more than 300 persons have been killed in attacks on mosques and worship places during the first three months of 1995. After the murder of two American diplomats, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto decided to take strict action against the terrorists. In addition to Sindh police, Security Cell under the IG of Sindh, the Central Investigative Agency [CIA], the FIA, and the F.S. wing of the Rangers started a campaign for arresting the terrorists. More than 1,500 persons have been arrested on suspicion alone. There are seven members of Sipah Mohammed and five members of SSP and hundreds of active members of the MQM (Haqueeqi) and MQM [Altaf] group among the arrested. The investigation agencies accuse all these persons of being involved in terrorism in the city. However, people in the city believe that only a few of those taken into custody are really terrorists who were involved in murders. There are also innocent people whom the police is torturing and demanding huge amount of money for their release. Some of the persons acquitted by the CIA said that police personnel get drunk at night and torture the arrested persons. One involved person who refused to reveal his name because of his fear of the police said that the police pulled nails of his fingers and toes and hit him on his back and his soles. He was released after paying 40,000 rupees. One young man released by the CIA said that the police personnel threatened them with physical beatings and said that if the demanded money was not paid the Shia youth would be implicated for attacking mosques and the Sunni youth would be accused of attacking [Shia] worship places. Some of the arrested persons were implicated in participating in robberies and cases involving illegal weapons. The police has First Information Reports [FIRs] as well as hundreds of FIRs accusing innocent persons of serious crimes. These people were threatened with the possibility of their names being substituted for the real criminals and huge amounts are being extorted from them.

Meanwhile, the struggle among the police rangers and other intelligence groups has started again. The prime minister has given unlimited authority to the police and the other agencies want to take the terrorists in their own custody. These efforts of the intelligence agencies are being watched with worry by the government circles.

The name of Abdulwasit Baloch aka Ramzi Yousef, a young man from Rexor Lane in Liari, has been mentioned in connection with incidents of terrorism. The American authorities had arrested him on 7 February 1995 in a rest house in Islamabad in connection with the 1993 bomb blast in the World Trade Center. The Pakistani officials learned of his arrest when he was moved to New York in a special plane. Thus, Abdulwasit Baloch aka Ramzi Yousef emerged in the world as a man of infamy.

Ramzi Yousef, the alleged criminal accused of the World Trade Center blast, arrived in Karachi via Lebanon and Tehran after that incident. In Karachi, Ramzi Yousef conceived a major plan for committing terrorism in Pakistan with the help of his associates Abdulshakur Khalid and an Arab, Abulaker. During this period, Ramzi Yousef's associates established relations with MQM (Haqueeqi) and Sipah Mohammed. He changed names during the last two years.

A journalist met with a young man named Adam Baloch in a Liari hotel in 1993. This young man was talking with great emotion against the United States of America. His associates were gathered around him and looked at him with great respect. This journalist did not know at that time that this person known as Adam Baloch was a zealous revolutionary and had connection with such movements all over the world. Ramzi Yousef aka Adam Baloch not only provided military help to some ethnic and religious groups active in Karachi, but also gave them training. Ramzi Yousef wanted the local ethnic and religious groups to take action to remove Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. To this end, he very cleverly used people close to Benazir Bhutto. In the first phase, he tried to access Balawal House. He knew that religious groups were very angry at Benazir Bhutto and would welcome violent activities against her.

In July 1993, when Ramzi Yousef aka Adam Baloch was wounded while making a bomb, one of his close associates first took him to Civil Hospital and transferred him to Agha Khan Hospital two days later under a false name. The above mentioned journalist went to visit him at the hospital with Khalid Baloch. They saw signs of Adam Baloch's face having been burnt and both of his hands were bandaged. He was lying in the bed and did not look nervous. A few days later when this journalist asked Khalid Baloch about Adam Baloch, he was told that he had gone to Dubai and was in good health.

A few weeks later, Ramzi Yousef aka Adam Baloch was eating in a restaurant called Toso in Chowrungee, Bahadurabad. On meeting, he said that after his return from Dubai he was living with his friend Mir Abraham in Bahadurabad. Mir Abraham appeared to be an Arab

by his accent. This journalist also met Zahir Shah there. He used to import Aab-i Zamzam [holy water from Mecca] in partnership with Mir Abraham. Later, Zahir Shah came several times to the journalist's office to meet him. Zahir Shah was also involved in currency exchange in addition to his regular business. The journalist after meeting Ramzi Yousef and his associates felt that they were increasing their relations with various religious and ethnic organizations. Suddenly, all of these people disappeared. He learned more about them when Ramzi Yousef was arrested in Islamabad and Abdul Shakur was arrested in Peshawar on 27 February.

The government claims that the arrested groups were associated with the MQM (Haqeeqi) and the SSP. Some

of the terrorists have admitted to their association with these organizations. However, both SSP and the MQM (Haqeeqi) have denied any relations with these persons.

At the instruction of the prime minister, IG of Sindh had the Security Cell and the CIA working under him develop a secret questionnaire for investigation of the arrested terrorists. In this questionnaire, the accused's connections with political, ethnic, and drug mafia groups as well as his relation with general Hamid Gul, Brigadier Imtiaz, and Major Aamir were also investigated. In addition, the questionnaire collected information about the accused's relations with any terrorist groups associated with Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Kashmir.

[Questionnaire published in English]

Friends/accomplices in Pakistan:

S.No.	Name	Father's Name	Address
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Relations with Foreign Countries/Diplomats:

S. No.	Name of Diplomat	Name of Foreign Country [Illegible]
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Circumstance/Reason and Date of Arrest:

Early History:

Connection With Other Religious/Political/Intelligence Agencies/other parties:

S. No.	Name of [illegible]
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Connection With Drug Smugglers:

S. No.	Name of Drug Smuggler	Address
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Connection With Gen. Hameed Gul, Brig. Imtiaz, Javed Nasir, Major Aamir:

Type of Connection Name With
Whom Connection:

Connection with Egypt/Algeria/Sudan/illegible or Kashmir:

Name of Country	Type of Connection
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